NATION

SC raps Delhi police for not fully imposing cracker ban

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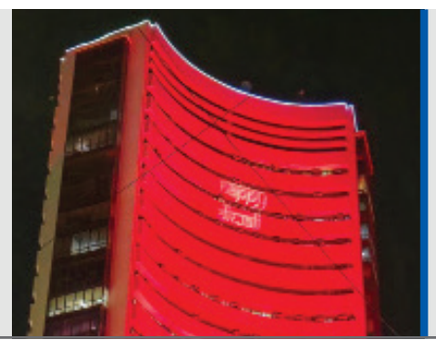
BUSINESS

Sensex, Nifty slide amid heavy outflow of foreign funds

≫ Page: 7 ≪



SPORTS

Bumrah to lead, Rahul to open in Perth

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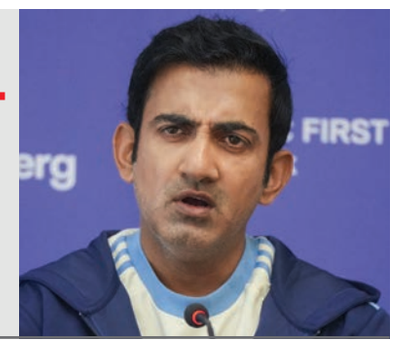

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It's a wrap for K'taka bypoll rallies

Shiggaon, Sandur and Channapatna gear up to vote on 13 November

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

The high-decibel electioneering came to an end on Monday evening in Shiggaon, Sandur, and Channapatna, as blaring loudspeakers fell silent, marking the close of public campaigning for the Assembly by-polls scheduled for 13 November.

According to the Election Commission, there are eight candidates in the fray in Shiggaon, 31 in Channapatna, and six in Sandur.

BJP has fielded former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai's son, Bharath Bommai, from Shiggaon. He will face Congress candidate Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan.

In Sandur, BJP has nominated Bangaru Hanumantha, who will contest against Congress's E Annapurna.

In Channapatna, BJP ally JD(S) has fielded Nikhil Kumaraswamy, the third generation of the party's first family. He will face Congress heavyweight CP Yogeeshwara. These bypolls were necessitated after E Tukaram (Sandur), Basavaraj Bommai (Shiggaon), and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy (Channapatna) resigned from the Assembly after winning Lok Sabha election. *—PTI*

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CM Siddaramaiah and DyCM DK Shivakumar campaign for CP Yogeeshwara in Channapatna on Monday ***PHOTO: @DKSHIVAKUMAR***

Former PM Deve Gowda campaigns for grandson Nikhil Kumaraswamy in Channapatna on Monday ***PHOTO: H_D_DEVEGOWDA***

HD Kumaraswamy ***PHOTO: ANI***

Zameer calls HDK 'Kaaliya', lands in trouble

RAMANAGARA, 11 NOV

Karnataka Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan has courted a controversy by calling Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy 'Kaaliya', a racist slur for being dark complexioned.

Retorting strongly, JD(S) on Monday demanded that Congress government should sack Khan from the Cabinet for his racist slur. Clarifying his remarks, Khan said he never intended to hurt Kumaraswamy.

Khan said Kumaraswamy used to call him 'Kulla' (dwarf). Further, the state minister said he has been addressing the union minister as 'Kariyanna' (black brother). *—PTI*

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Starlink to comply with India's rules for satellite internet

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Starlink's application for a satellite broadband licence in India is advancing after the Elon Musk-led company agreed to comply with government data localisation and security requirements. Starlink's commitment to meet these guidelines is a significant step toward obtaining a Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite Services (GMPCS) licence from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), a prerequisite for satellite broadband services. The agreement comes as US President-elect Donald Trump considers a prominent role for Musk in his administration, boosting Starlink's influence. *—Agencies*

>>>More on Page 7

Trump dials Putin on ending war; Kremlin denies

WASHINGTON, 11 NOV

US President-elect Donald Trump spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin over the phone and discussed ending the war in Ukraine amongst many other important topics, according to a media report. However, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov denied the media report of the phone call between Putin and Trump. Trump is scheduled to be sworn in as the 47th President of the United States on 20 January, 2025. Ukraine has been informed about the Trump-Putin call. *—PTI*

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Blast triggers fire at IOCL refinery in Vadodara, 1 dead

VADODARA, 11 NOV

A 32-year-old worker died in a fire triggered by a blast at the Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) refinery in Vadodara, Gujarat, on Monday, an official said. The fire broke out following a blast in its benzene storage tank, a police officer said. The blast at the IOCL refinery in the Koyali area on the outskirts of Vadodara occurred at 4pm. Visuals showed smoke billowing out of the refinery and the explosion was heard in a radius of 8 km. The locals came out of the nearby buildings as the blast shook their homes. Several workers were evacuated and can be seen exiting the IOCL campus. All the employees who were working in the shift were moved out of the refinery. *—PTI*

BJP, Cong knock on EC door

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Both BJP and Congress on Monday knocked on Election Commission door to file complaints against each other over "violation" of the model code of conduct in Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

BJP asked Election Commission to lodge of an FIR against Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi for conducting "malicious and slanderous" poll campaigns against it in Maharashtra.

BJP said Election Commission must "reprimand, censure, and restrain" Rahul from "handing out lies during campaigning" for next week's Maharashtra election.

Meanwhile, a Congress delegation on Monday took up with Election Commission eight complaints regarding Jharkhand and Maharashtra Assembly polls, including a "communal" image posted by the BJP depicting reservations being taken from SCs, STs and OBCs and given to members of a minority community.

It claimed that all the eight complaints raised by it were found "valid" by the poll body.

EC pulls up Bengal BJP Chief

Election Commission issued a showcause notice to West Bengal BJP President Sukanta Majumdar for his alleged remarks on the national emblem and the West Bengal police. Majumdar has been asked to furnish his response by 8 pm on Monday.

The alleged remarks, "insulting the national emblem and the state police", were made on 7 November, the EC said in its notice. TMC had complained to the EC on Saturday against Majumdar. The EC on Monday also rejected allegations made by the TMC of delay or inaction, saying that it acted within 20 hours of receiving the complaint. *—PTI*

Will drive out infiltrators: Shah in J'khand

SERAIKELA, 11 NOV

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday announced that if BJP formed government in Jharkhand, a committee would be formed to identify and drive out infiltrators from the state besides reclaiming the land grabbed by them. Also, a legislation will be brought to prevent transfer of land to infiltrators on their marrying tribal women, Shah said.

>>>More on Page 3

SC rejects Prajwal's bail plea in rape case

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

The Supreme Court on Monday denied bail to former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, accused of rape and sexual assault. The bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma also observed that Prajwal was a "very influential person".

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who represented the politician, argued that the chargesheet had been filed in the case without the charge of Section 376 (rape) of the IPC. The bench, however, observed that it could not interfere with the Karnataka High Court's October 21 decision denying him bail.

Subsequently, Rohatgi sought the liberty to approach the court after six months, but the bench said it could not say anything about it and dismissed the plea.

In August, a special investigation team in Karnataka, which is probing four cases of sexual assault and harassment against Revanna, submitted a 2,144-page chargesheet in the alleged rape case against the former MLA.

Revanna is the son of Holenarasipura JD(S) MLA HD Revanna and the grandson of former prime minister HD Deve Gowda.

He is currently in judicial custody at Parappana Agrahara Jail for allegedly sexually abusing several women and video-recording the alleged crime.

The SIT officials had arrested Revanna on 31 May on his return from Germany. *—PTI*

RG KAR: ROY SAYS EX-TOP COP FRAMED HIM

KOLKATA, 11 NOV

Civic volunteer Sanjay Roy, who is the prime accused in the rape and murder of a junior doctor of RG Kar Medical College & Hospital in Kolkata, on Monday, claimed that the former Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Kumar Goyal was the main conspirator in framing him in the case.

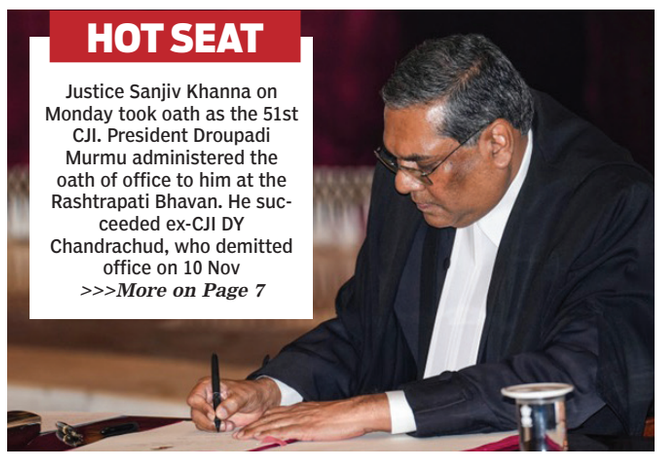
While Ray was brought out of a special court in Kolkata at the end of the first day of the trial process, Roy shouted towards the waiting reporters and claimed the former police commission was plotting a conspiracy to frame him.

"The deputy commissioner of the detective department was also involved in the conspiracy. Our government also backed them," he said. A statue depicting the victim was broken into pieces on Sunday at RG Kar Hospital. There were two statues, one of a person in a doctor's uniform and another of the person in a saree, placed in the "Droho Gallery" as a mark of the protest by junior doctors. *—Agencies*

HOT SEAT

Justice Sanjiv Khanna on Monday took oath as the 51st CJI. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to him at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. He succeeded ex-CJI DY Chandrachud, who demitted office on 10 Nov

>>>More on Page 7



11 militants killed in Manipur's Jiribam

IMPHAL, 11 NOV

Eleven suspected militants were killed and two CRPF personnel also sustained injuries in a gunfight at Jakurador Karong in Manipur's Jiribam district on Monday. The condition of one CRPF jawan was reported to be critical, officials said.

Militants in camouflage uniforms, armed with sophisticated weapons, fired indiscriminately at the Borobekra police station and a CRPF camp near it around 2.30pm, officials said. A few of the militants also broke out and went to the Jakurador Karong market, around 100 metres away, and torched several shops, besides attacking some houses, they said.

As the security forces retaliated, a heavy exchange of fire began and 11 suspected militants were killed. The gunfight lasted a little over an hour, the officials said.

Five people living in relief camp were missing after the attack. It was not clear whether these civilians were kidnapped by the retreating militants, they said, adding that a search was underway for them.

Following the incident, prohibitory orders were imposed in the area. Meanwhile, a farmer working in the fields in Manipur's Imphal East district sustained injuries when militants opened fire from nearby hilltop positions on Monday morning, police said. This was the third consecutive day of hills-based militants attacking farmers working in the fields in Imphal Valley. *—PTI*

India, Russia ink deal on Pantsir to bolster air defence

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

A major Indian defence public sector undertaking has signed an agreement with Russia's Rosoboronexport for cooperation on variants of the Pantsir air defence missile-gun system.

The Pantsir air defence system is a versatile platform designed to protect critical military and industrial facilities from aerial threats and reinforce air defence units. The MoU between Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Rosoboronexport was signed recently on the sidelines of the fifth IRIGC in Goa.

Headquartered in Hyderabad, BDL was incorporated in 1970 as a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Defence. The agreement came ahead of the "working visit" of Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov. *—PTI*

JMM manifesto vows 33% job quota for women

RANCHI, 11 NOV

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) on Monday released its manifesto for Assembly elections promising 33 per cent of reserva-tion to women in state government jobs.

The manifesto promises:

- Loans up to Rs 5 crore to MSME entrepreneurs
- Loans waiver for small and medium-level traders
- Setting up of sports centres of excellence, sports university
- Agricultural loans at a zero per cent interest rate
- Increase MGNREGA wage to Rs 350 per day
- 500 CM Schools of Excellence at the block level
- 4,500 model schools at the panchayat level
- 100 nursing college

Curtains come down on campaigning for J'khand

RANCHI, 11 NOV

Curtains came down on Monday on campaigning for 43 of the total 81 assembly seats in Jharkhand going to the polls on 13 November during the first phase of elections.

Star campaigners of both the NDA and INDIA bloc including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi and others canvassed for their respective party nominees during the campaigning.

A total of 1.37 crore voters out the total 2,60 crore are eligible to participate in the voting on 13 November.

Altogether 683 candidates - 609 men, 73 women and a third gender person - are in the fray in 43 seats, Chief Electoral Officer K Ravi Kumar said.

Out of the 43, 17 seats are reserved for general, 20 for scheduled tribes and 6 seats for scheduled castes.

A total of 15,344 polling stations have been set up for the first phase of elections. Out of them, 12,716 booths are located in rural areas and 2,628 booths in urban areas.

Kumar said all preparations for voting have been completed and on Monday, polling personnel have been sent to 194 polling stations.

Polling personnel will be sent to the 31 remaining booths on Tuesday.

In the first phase, voting will be held on 13 November from 7 am to 5pm.

However, in 950 booths, the voting time will end at 4 pm, though people standing in the queue at that time will be able to vote. *—PTI*

POST AI MERGER

After 10 years, Vistara flies into sunset

NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI, 11 NOV

The nearly 10-year-old Vistara is set to bid adieu to the skies as the well-regarded full-service carrier will operate its last domestic and international flights as an independent airline late on Monday night.

Vistara flight UK 986 will fly from Mumbai to Delhi and UK 115 will fly from Delhi to Singapore. It will be the last time that the flight code 'UK' will be dotting the firmament and from Tuesday onwards, Vistara flights will have the new code 'AI2XXX'.

When the airline commenced operations on 9 January, 2015, it was the other way around as the maiden flight operated from Delhi to Mumbai.

A joint venture between Tata Group and Singapore, Vistara will be merged with Air India, following which Singapore Airlines will have a 25.1 per cent stake in the enlarged entity.

The merger will also mark the second major consolidation wave in the country's fast-growing civil aviation space after 2006-2007. Post Vistara merger— also Tata Group's second significant airlines integration after AIX Connect was combined with Air India Express in October— there will be only Air India as a full-service Indian carrier.

In 2006-07, Indian Airlines merged with Air India and Air Sahara merged with Jet Airways. During the same period, Air Deccan was amalgamated with Kingfisher Airlines.

With a fleet of 70 planes, Vistara operates around 350 flights daily. SIA will also make an additional investment of Rs 3,194.5 crore in Air India post merger. The airline, on Friday, said its consideration for the merger comprises the 49 per cent interest in Vistara and Rs 2,058.5 crore in cash in exchange for a 25.1 per cent equity interest in Air India. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 7

With a fleet of 70 planes, Vistara operates around 350 flights daily ***PHOTO: X/@Vistara***

- When the airline commenced operations on 9 January, 2015, it was the other way around as the maiden flight operated from Delhi to Mumbai.

Mysuru girl stripped, villagers come to her rescue

MYSURU, 11 NOV

A minor girl was stripped at Bandenahalli in Hunsur in Mysuru on Sunday. The four-year-old girl was stripped and the accused tried to rape her, according to police statement. The villagers came to the rescue,- caught hold of the accused and handed him over to the police. Based on a complaint filed by the mother of the girl, police arrested the accused identified as Mahadeva under Protection of a child under sexual offences Act (POCSO), produced him to court, remanded him under judcia custody. —*Salar News*

CM to inaugurate Valmiki Jayanthi celebrations today

MYSURU, 11 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar will take part in the birth anniversary celebrations of Sanskrit poet Maharishi Valmiki which will be organised by Chikkamadu Fans Association at HD Kote town on Tuesday. Harihar Rajanahalli Valmiki Mutt seer Prasannandapuri Swamiji will grace the occasion and MLA Anil Chikkamadu will preside over, said association president Jinnahalli Rajanayaka. PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi and District in-charge minister HC Mahadevappa will offer floral tributes to a portrait of Valmiki, Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna and Animal Husbandry Minister K Venkatesh will distribute prizes to the winners of competitions. Siddaramaiah will also lay the foundation stone for a slew of development works. A procession of folk artistes' troupes, dances and 20 tableaux will also be taken out before this function. —*Salar News*

PHOTO: PTI

HDK: Ramanagara & Channapatna will be twin cities in 3 yrs

MYSURU, 11 NOV

With Channapatna bypolls approaching, former chief minister of Karnataka HD Kumaraswamy took aim at Congress leaders on Sunday, declaring, "Thieves are uniting with thieves," to criticise what he views as politically motivated alliances. "They are wandering around playing politics. Meanwhile, I am here to ask for votes with a focus on development," Kumaraswamy said, pledging, "Within three years, we will see Ramanagara and Channapatna develop as twin cities. We'll establish a factory near the silk market and create jobs for you." "Congress government is plunging the state into a debt trap, borrowing an additional 1.5 lakh crore rupees. Under the guise of guarantees, it is burdening people with debt," he added. —*PTI*

2 City police stations operating without inspectors

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

Two police stations in City have been functioning without an officer of the rank of inspector. At Gangamma Gudi police station, it has been almost six months since the retirement of inspector Siddegowda and no new officer was appointed in his place. Similarly in Soladevanahalli police station, the post of the inspector has been lying vacant for the past three months after the retirement of Hariyappa. Normally, if there is a delay in appointing an inspector, Station House Officer or Sub-inspector can take up the responsibilities until a new officer takes up the charge. Most of the cases registered in these two police stations are related to drug peddling and property disputes, according to sources. Despite this, no orders have been issued by Home Department regarding posting of officers. —*Salar News*

Zameer's Kaaliya jibe at HDK starts political storm

JD(S) asks Congress to sack Khan; BJP too calls it racist

RAMANAGARA, 11 NOV

Karnataka Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan has courted a controversy by calling Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy 'Kaaliya', a racist slur for being dark complexioned.

Retorting strongly, JD(S) on Monday demanded that Congress government should sack Khan from the Cabinet for his racist slur. Clarifying his remarks, Khan said he never intended to hurt Kumaraswamy.

Khan said Kumaraswamy used to call him 'Kulla' (dwarf). Further, the state minister said he has been addressing the union minister as 'Kariyanna' (black brother).

At an election rally addressing the minorities in Ramanagara on Sunday, Khan said the Channapatna Congress candidate CP Yogeeshwara had no other option but to join BJP earlier.

Clarifying his remarks, Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan said he said it out of love as HDK calls him 'Kulla' (dwarf) PHOTO: PTI

"Due to some differences in our party (Congress), he contested as an independent. He had no option but to join the BJP. He was not ready to join the JD(S) because 'Kaaliya Kumaraswamy' was more dangerous than the BJP. Now he (Yogeeshwara) has come back home," the minister said.

Khan also played out the audio of the purported statement of Kumaraswamy where he is heard saying, "My politics is not dependent on Muslim votes. I am making this clear. I don't need Hijab or Pajaab."

The party sought to know the colour of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, ministers HC Mahadevappa, Satish Jarakiholi, Priyank Kharge and KH Muniyappa.

"Dismiss such a low mentality person from the Cabinet immediately," the party demanded.

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijiju too condemned Khan's slur.

"I strongly deplore Congress Minister Zameer Ahmed calling Union Minister & Ex CM of Karnataka Sh. Kumaraswamy as 'Kaalia Kumaraswamy'. This is a racist remark, same as Rahul Gandhi's adviser calling South Indians look like Africans, North East as Chinese, North Indians as Arabs," Rijiju said in a post on 'X'. —*PTI*

Prove ₹700 cr used for polls, I will retire: CM

HAVERI, 11 NOV

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said that he would retire from politics if Prime Minister Narendra Modi proves that Congress government has mobilised Rs 700 crore for poll-bound States.

Siddaramaiah also challenged Modi that he should resign if he fails to prove his allegations.

"I am surprised to see the prime minister of this country lies so much. While campaigning somewhere in Maharashtra, the prime minister said that the Congress in Karnataka has collected Rs 700 crore through the excise department to send to Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and to spend on the bypolls," Siddaramaiah said at an election rally in Shiggaon in Haveri district on Sunday night.

"Today I challenge Narendra Modi that if he can prove these allegations, I will retire from politics. If you cannot, then you should retire," the chief minister said.

Siddaramaiah PHOTO: PTI

He said when a prime minister makes such allegations, it should be nearer to the truth, but these claims are far from it. The country has never seen a prime minister in the history of independence India who lies so much, he added.

During a meeting at Akola in Maharashtra, Modi said, "In the name of election in Maharashtra, the extortion in Karnataka has doubled. —*PTI*

KEEP CALM & FISH

Fishermen do their daily fishing at Halasuru Lake in Bengaluru on Monday PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD

'Bankrupt govt' will stop Gruha Lakshmi scheme: Deve Gowda

RAMANAGARA, 11 NOV

JD(S) patriarch and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda has said that the 'bankrupt Karnataka government' will stop the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme.

Gowda's statement drew a sharp reaction from Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar who on Monday said BJP and JD(S) always wanted to stop all the guarantees given by Congress government in the State.

'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme is one of the five guarantees of Congress government, which offers Rs 2,000 to the women heads of the BPL families.

JD(S) patriarch at an election rally on Sunday said,

PHOTO: PTI

"Congress government has emptied the treasury. There are no Gruha Lakshmi funds for women's bank accounts across the state, but they (Congress) have credited money specifically to the accounts of women in the Channapatna constituency with an eye on the election."

Gowda was in Channapatna seeking votes for his grandson Nikhil Kumaraswamy who is contesting the assembly bypoll on a JD(S) ticket.

The former prime minister said, "This government is bankrupt. After the election, they'll stop depositing money again. They don't even have money to fill potholes in Bengaluru; people are furious."

Reacting to the comments, Shivakumar said, "Deve Gowda had said Gruha Lakshmi guarantee would be stopped.

He is not fortunate to offer such a good scheme. We are giving it to our mothers and sisters to make their lives easy but the BJP and JD(S) want to take it away." —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Paddy to be procured at MSP of ₹2,300/quintal

MYSURU, 11 NOV

District administration will procure Fair Average Quality (FAQ) paddy and ragi for 2024-25 marketing season under Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme, said Deputy Commissioner G Lakshmikanth Reddy on Monday. FAQ is used to describe food products that are of good enough quality to be sold.

Karnataka State Agricultural Marketing Board has appointed an agency to purchase both ragi and paddy under the scheme, Reddy said while chairing a review meeting here.

This season, farmers can sell a maximum of 40 quintals of paddy and 20 quintals of ragi under MSP programme. While paddy will be procured at the MSP price of Rs 2,300 per quintal and ragi will be purchased at Rs 4,290 per quintal.

The amount will be directly credited to the bank accounts of the farmers.

As per the guidelines, farmers must compulsorily register their crops in the FRUITS portal. —Salar News

BJP CONSPIRING TO STOP GUARANTEES, SAYS DKS

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday said BJP was conspiring to stop the guarantee schemes launched by Congress government in State.

JD(S) supremo HD Deve Gowda had said Gruha Lakshmi scheme will be discontinued after the byelections in the State. "It is not in the destiny of the Opposition parties to stop our guarantee schemes. We are giving out monthly Gruha Lakshmi allowance to ease the burden of millions of families. BJP and JDS are conspiring to stop the scheme and people need to be careful," he said.

Shivakumar also slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ATM remark aimed at Congress governments and dubbed it a "lie." —*Salar News*

DK Shivakumar PHOTO: PTI

HC VERDICT

Dads bound to cover daughter's edu expense

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

Dismissing a man's plea challenging an order to maintain the expenses of his daughters including a minor, Karnataka High Court said the father is "legally bound to maintain the daughters" and provide them with an "excellent education" even if they are living separately with his former wife.

A single-judge bench of Justice Ashok S Kinagi dismissed a petition filed by one BC Hanumantharaju challenging an order of maintenance issued by a trial court. The father contended that he is divorced from his wife who is the mother of the respondents and he is not liable to pay compensation as the respondents demand.

The trial court in its order on 7 March, 2023, directed him to pay Rs 6,000 per month to each of his daughters including a minor till they get married.

It had directed him to pay Rs 1,04,000 to the respondents towards educational expenses incurred during the current academic year.

On the other hand, the daughters argued that the father is not taking care of the respondent's daughters and is also not paying maintenance.

"The petitioners are college-going students. Considering the petitioner's income, the trial court has rightly awarded Rs 6,000 per month to each respondent from the date of petition till they get married and also education expenses. I do not find any error in the judgment passed by the family court," court ordered. —*Salar News*

PHOTO: PTI

CITY CRIME BEAT

Woman allegedly groped at cafe

A Pune-based woman took to social media claiming that she was groped by an unidentified person while entering a popular café in the City. The woman claimed online that the incident took place when she was waiting in a queue at Rameshwaram Cafe. "I immediately shouted and made a scene. He kept denying it and fled the scene," she wrote.

—*Salar News*

Man held for assaulting BMTC driver

A government bus driver here was allegedly verbally abused and assaulted inside the bus by an unidentified person who was subsequently nabbed, police said on Monday. The incident occurred around 8 pm on Sunday when the bus was en-route Jayanagar to Vijayanagar. According to Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), while the bus was stationed near Haleguddadahalli signal, a person riding a motorcycle stopped beside the bus and began abusing the driver. The man then boarded the bus and assaulted the driver. "Despite the sudden attack, Murtuza Imam Saab quickly secured the bus by locking its doors. With the cooperation of passengers, the assailant was apprehended and taken to Byatarayanapura police station, where a non-cognisable report was filed," a senior BMTC official said. Imam, who sustained injuries, underwent treatment at Victoria Hospital. BMTC Managing Director Ramachandran R recently met City Police Commissioner B Dayanand and requested that action be taken on the assailants.

—*PTI*

Double murder case suspect held

Bagalur police arrested a 35-year-old man on Sunday night for his alleged involvement in a double murder case here. The accused was identified as Suresh, 35, a resident of Banashankari.
On Saturday, Nagesh, 55, and Manjunath, 50, were found dead at a shed in Singanahalli. The duo used to work as private bus cleaners. Earlier it was suspected that the duo was drunk and killed each other over a petty issue. Later the police found the involvement of Suresh. A senior officer from Bengaluru Rural told Salar News, "The accused said that the duo used to bully him by calling him a 'thief' and 'criminal', which often led to heated arguments." On the night of the incident, Nagesh and Majunath allegedly abused Suresh in an inebriated state. A quarrel broke out after which Suresh allegedly killed them with an iron rod. Suresh was previously convicted of a murder and a rape case, serving a 10-year imprisonment. He was released as a film actor provided surety for him.—*Salar News*

Man steals to treat fiancee's mom

A 25-year-old man was arrested by Jigani police for several chain snatching incidents here. The accused is Syed Balasaheb Nadaf, a native of Hullu village in Gadag district. Police said the accused wanted to fund the heart treatment of his fiancée's mother with the money. Jigani police told Salar News that the accused was arrested after he was captured on CCTV footage while snatching a gold chain from an elderly woman in August. Police seized stolen valuables including ornaments worth Rs 8 lakh.

—*Salar News*

Man kills friend, films murder

A 21-year-old man was killed by his friend following a drunken brawl over a woman, police said on Monday. Santhosh, 23, allegedly strangled his friend Sunil with a rope and recorded a video of the act, according to the police. Santhosh was later arrested. The incident took place on Sunday at a farm in Basavana Bagewadi town in Vijayapura. Police said the two men were drinking when an argument broke out over a woman they both had been seeing. In a fit of rage, Santhosh allegedly used a rope to strangle Sunil. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Trump, Harris were dependent on India: MP CM

GWALIOR, 11 NOV

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Monday claimed that during the recent US presidential elections President-Elect Donald Trump and Kamala Harris were dependent on India. Talking to reporters in Gwalior, Yadav said that all superpowers in the world wanted to associate with India. "Our Prime Minister is a shubhankar (mascot). India has also shown the strength of its democracy to the world. Today, any big superpower sees a benefit in associating with India. We have seen in the US presidential elections that whether Trump or Harris won, both were dependent on India. We are happy that President-Elect Trump has been a personal friend of Modi ji. The Russian president is also looking the same (towards India)," Yadav said. *—PTI*

Jharkhand BJP booked for post on Rahul, Soren

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

An FIR has been lodged at Ranchi for violation of model code of conduct guidelines and legal provisions against BJP's Jharkhand unit for posting false and misleading videos on the 'BJP 4 Jharkhand' social media handle against INDIA bloc leaders, sources said on Monday. The cybercrime police station Ranchi has also written to social media platform for removing the objectionable posts. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh alleged that the video with baseless allegations is unduly influencing the voters and dissuading them to vote for any Opposition party. The post, which appears to take a dig at Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav by featuring three characters resembling them, shows them being "anti-tribal". *—PTI*

SC junks Jan Suraaj's plea to change Bihar bypolls date

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea filed by political strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party to postpone the Bihar bypolls scheduled to be held on 13 November. The bench said it was too late to interfere in the scheduled bypolls. Calling it a policy issue, the top court said courts should not interfere in such matters and noted all arrangements had been made for the bypolls. "Other political parties do not have a problem. Only you have a problem. You are a new political party, you need to know these zigzags," remarked the bench. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the petitioner, said there was no other festival as important as Chhath pooja. *—PTI*

SC quashes arrest warrant against Shivraj Chouhan

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Supreme Court on Monday stayed the execution of bailable warrant against Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and two other BJP leaders in a defamation case filed by Congress Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha. A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti sought Tankha's response on a plea of Chouhan and others challenging the 25 October order of the Madhya Pradesh High Court refusing to quash the defamation case. The bench said, "The execution of bailable warrants against the petitioners shall not be executed subject to their effective participation in the proceedings before the court in the case." On 25 October, High Court had refused to quash the case against Chouhan, BJP state President VD Sharma and former minister Bhupendra Singh. *—PTI*

Cong breaking SC, ST's strength: PM

Modi says Nehru was an opponent of quota

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Congress is trying to break the collective strength of SC, ST and OBC by creating divisions among them to weaken their voice and eventually end the reservation for them, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday as he called for unity among these communities.

"That's why I keep saying 'ek rahenge, toh safe rahenge (if you remain united, you would be safe)," he said while interacting with BJP workers in Jharkhand under the 'mera booth sabse mazboot' programme through the NaMo app.

Modi also highlighted the "failures" of the JMM-Congress-RJD combine's five-year rule and said the state has to be freed from "corruption, mafiaism and misrule" to put it on the path of progress.

Narendra Modi PHOTO: PTI

The kind of blessings that the BJP is receiving at booth levels, it's clear that the "corrupt" JMM-led government is set to be ousted, Modi asserted. "The countdown has begun," he said.

Modi said "everyone from the royal family" of Congress – from Jawaharlal Nehru to Rajiv Gandhi – were "staunch opponents" of the provision of reservation and the party crushed all the voices rising in its favour till it was at the helm from "panchayat to Parliament" as the Dalit, OBC and Adivasi societies were scattered then.

But, gradually they started understanding what BR Ambedkar had said and came together posing a challenge to the Congress in many of the states, he said "The OBC society could not come together till 1990. But when they came together, Congress suffered severe losses. *—PTI*

PM dividing Hindus & Muslims: Uddhav

He questions Modi's 'silence' over Manipur

YAVATMAL, 11 NOV

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray on Monday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah were trying to create a rift between Hindus and Muslims while campaigning for Maharashtra assembly elections.

Addressing a poll rally at Wani in Yavatmal, Thackeray said the "Modi guarantee" does not work in Maharashtra. "Only 'Hinduhriday Samrat' Balasaheb Thackeray's writ is followed in Maharashtra", he added.

Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) of Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (SP), and Congress is locked in a tight contest with the Mahayuti alliance, comprising BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP- for the 20 November Assembly elections.

Uddhav Thackeray PHOTO: PTI

He questioned Modi's "silence" over violence in Manipur and the issues such as the safety of women.

" Shahji, article 370 (which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir before it was scrapped) has nothing to do with farmers in Maharashtra. The abrogation reference can neither ensure proper price for soybean and cotton crops nor employment in coal industries," Thackeray added. Canvassing for BJP for the 20 November Maharashtra polls, Modi had spoken about "Ek Hai to Safe Hai" while calling for unity among backward classes in light of the Congress' "plan" to divide members of Scheduled Castes, tribals, and OBCs .Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said that the campaign revealed the "sick mindset" of the BJP. *—PTI*

Citizens' manifestoes flag civic issues

PUNE, 11 NOV

With Maharashtra Assembly polls just around the corner, residents of Pune have drafted their own set of demands as part of "citizens' manifestoes" to highlight basic issues, and have urged candidates to address them in their manifestos.

Key concerns dominating these charter of demands include lack of proper water supply, poor road infrastructure, encroachments, traffic snarls, improper sewage systems, noise pollution, frequent power outages, and the need for the implementation of development plans (DPs).

Residents of Mohammadwadi and Undri in south Pune, under the aegis of a local welfare forum, have created their own manifesto to address the long-standing civic issues related to inadequate water supply, frequent power outages, traffic problems, waste disposal and management, encroachments, and lack of police patrolling at night. *—PTI*

> **Our ancestors did jihad against Britishers and Fadnavis is now teaching us about jihad. While Fadnavis talks about (vote) jihad, his hero was writing 'love letters' to Britishers, whereas our freedom fighters did not negotiate with the foreign rulers**
>
> —Asaduddin Owaisi, LS MP

> **In the last elections, issues such as corruption were raised by BJP. Today they are not doing anything because they themselves are completely engulfed in corruption... BJP and its alliance partners have been insulting all icons and propagating distorted history** —Supriya Sule, NCP (SP) Working President

Parties in soup claim religion is in danger: Riteish

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, 11 NOV

People claim their religion is in danger, but it is their party that is in danger, and they are praying to save it, Bollywood actor Riteish Deshmukh said while campaigning for his brother and Maharashtra Congress leader.

The actor was campaigning in Latur for Dhiraj Deshmukh, who will take on BJP's Ramesh Karad in the Latur (Rural) . The educated youth of the state don't have jobs, and it is the government's responsibility to give them employment, the actor said, adding that farmers were not getting a good price for their produce. *—PTI*

Riteish Deshmukh PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

MODI PURCHASES MLAs LIKE GOATS: KHARGE

RANCHI, 11 NOV

In a no-holds-barred attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday accused him of oppressing the opposition, toppling elected governments and purchasing legislators "like goats to feed and feast on them later".

He also charged Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of running the central government with "Adani and Ambani". Kharge attacked Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath alleging that he believes in 'Mukh me Ram, bagal me chhuri'. Attacking Yogi, Kharge said, "A true Yogi cannot use language like 'batenge toh katenge'. This language is used by terrorists." *—PTI*

J'KHAND IS DHARMASHALA FOR ROHINGYAS: YOGI

RANCHI, 11 NOV

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday accused the JMM-led coalition in Jharkhand of converting the state into a 'dharmashala' for Rohingyas and Bangladeshi infiltrators.

Adityanath said a double-engine government was needed in Jharkhand for "treatment" of mafia, stone pelters and those spreading anarchy and creating disturbances in festivals. "Batenge to katenge, ek rahenge to safe rahege (If divided, we will be wiped out, if united, we will remain safe)," he said. Adityanath alleged that the JMM-led government in Jharkhand fuelled corruption, anarchy and loot of natural resources. *—PTI*

Bypolls: RaGa vows to make Wayanad 'global tourism hub'

WAYANAD, 11 NOV

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi joined his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on the last day of the bypoll campaign for the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat on Monday and promised to elevate Wayanad to the ranks of world's premier tourism destination.

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is the UDF candidate contesting in the bypoll. He said the people of Wayanad taught him that the word love has a great place in politics. The Wayanad bypolls, scheduled for 13 November, was necessitated after Rahul vacated the seat following his victory in Raebareli in the recent parliamentary elections.

Rahul Gandhi with sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in Wayanad

Meanwhile, the high-octane public campaigning for the crucial bypolls in Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency and Chelakkara Assembly segment concluded on Monday. *—PTI*

Assam violence: 2 cops transferred

Election Commission (EC) ordered the transfer of two police officers in Assam's Nagaon following incidents of violence in Samaguri, where bypoll is scheduled this week, official sources said on Monday. The additional superintendent of police (Crime), Nagaon, Partha Pratim Saikia and Kaliabar sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Rupjyoti Dutta has been moved out of the district.

Badal eyes to win seat 12 years after loss

Twelve-year after losing his stronghold, BJP candidate Manpreet Singh Badal has returned to Gidderbaha to seek a re-election and showcase it as a "model" Assembly segment and wrest the seat once represented by his uncle. He has been visiting villages in the constituency and is invoking the name of five-time chief minister late Parkash Singh Badal. His rivals are AAP's nominee Hardeeep Singh Dimpy Dhillon and Congress' Amrita Warring, who is the wife of Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring. *—PTI*

12-hr bandh called for ST status affects life in Assam dists

DIBRUGARH/TINSUKIA, 11 NOV

A 12-hour bandh in Assam's Dibrugarh and Tinsukia called by Moran and Motok organisations demanding ST status for the two communities has brought life to a standstill on Monday, with all business establishments, offices and other institutions remaining closed.

Thousands of agitators blocked the main roads in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia towns and stopped vehicular movement along the national highways despite the district administrations promulgating prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) in entire districts.

Protesters came out in large numbers to impose the 12-hour bandh from 5 am called by All Moran Students' Union (AMSU) and All Assam Motok Yuva Chatra Sanmilan (defying district administrations' orders issued on Sunday night, prohibiting any forceful bandh call, road blockage, picketing, burning of tyres and carrying of inflammable items. Assam's Moran, Motok, Chutia, Tai-Ahom, Koch-Rajbongshi and Tea-Tribes communities have been demanding ST status for many years. *—PTI*

BOOST TO STATE

Andhra govt presents Rs 2.94 lakh cr budget

AMARAVATI, 11 NOV

Andhra Pradesh government on Monday presented a budget of Rs 2.94 lakh crore for the year 2024-25 with Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav asserting that it was aimed at "restarting the financial wheels of the state."

BUDGET IN NUMBERS

- Rs 39,007 crore for Backward classes
- Rs 29,909 crore for school education
- Rs 18,497 crore for SC welfare
- Rs 18,421 crore for Healthcare and Family Welfare.
- Rs 16,739 crore for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development
- Rs 16,705 crore to Water Resources Department
- Rs 11,490 crore to the Department of Municipal Administration & Urban Development
- Rs 9,554 crore to the Department of Transport, Roads and Buildings
- Rs 8,207 crore for the Energy Department
- Rs 7,557 crore for ST welfare
- Rs 4,376 crore for minorities' welfare
- Rs 34,743 crore: **Estimated revenue deficit**
- Rs 68,743 crore: **Fiscal deficit**
- Rs 2.36 lakh crore: **Revenue expenditure**
- Rs 32,713 crore: **Capital expenditure**

3 states to get fire services projects worth Rs 725 cr

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

A high-level committee, headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, on Monday approved three projects worth Rs 725.62 crore for the expansion and modernisation of fire services in Chhattisgarh, Odisha and West Bengal.

The committee has approved Rs 376.76 crore for West Bengal, Rs 201.10 crore for Odisha and Rs 147.76 crore for Chhattisgarh under the 'Expansion and Modernisation of Fire Services' in the states, an official release said.

The Centre has allocated Rs 5,000 crore under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for 'Expansion and Modernisation of Fire Services'. Proposals of 15 states with a total outlay of Rs 2,542.12 crore had already been approved. More than Rs 21,026 crore has already been released to the states during this year for various disaster-related aspects. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PIXABAY

THIS YEAR

Terror attacks kill 44 in 8 Jammu districts

JAMMU, 11 NOV

Terror attacks have killed 44 people, including 18 security personnel, in Jammu this year with the strikes spreading from the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch to six other areas in the troubled region, security officials said on Monday.

Though the Pir Panjal districts of Rajouri and Poonch witnessed a considerable drop in terror activities in 2024 compared to the previous years, the series of incidents in Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua, Udhampur and Jammu from April-May onwards have kept the security agencies on their toes.

Seven security personnel lost their lives in terror incidents this year in Kathua PHOTO: PTI

Doda, Kathua and Reasi recorded nine killings each this year followed by Kishtwar (five), Udhampur (four), Jammu and Rajouri (three each), and Poonch (two).

The deceased included 13 terrorists, the officials said, adding that among the 14 civilians killed by the terrorists, seven were pilgrims returning from the Shiv Khouri temple while three were village defence guards (VGDs).

Seven security personnel lost their lives in terror incidents this year in Kathua, five in Doda, three in Kishtwar, two in Poonch and one in Udhampur, the officials said, adding that three terrorists were killed in a two-day long operation in Akhnoor sector of Jammu region in October, four in separate encounters in Doda, two each in Kathua, Udhampur and Rajouri.

The Rajouri-Poonch belt witnessed deadly terror attacks mostly targeting army vehicles since October 2021, resulting in the death of more than 100 people, including 47 security personnel and 48 terrorists, besides seven civilians. *—PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Money laundering: Jet Airways founder gets medical bail

MUMBAI, 11 NOV

Bombay High Court on Monday granted medical bail to Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal, who is an accused in a money laundering case. In May this year, a single bench of Justice NJ Jamadar granted interim bail to Goyal on medical grounds. Justice Jamadar on Monday made the interim order permanent. Goyal, 75 is suffering from cancer and had sought bail to undergo treatment. Enforcement Directorate had opposed his plea and said he could be admitted to a hospital of his choice and take treatment while in custody. In May, the HC granted interim bail to Goyal for two months which was later extended. ED arrested Goyal in September 2023 on allegations that he had laundered money and siphoned off loans. *—PTI*

Student stabbed to death in road rage in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, 11 NOV

A 23-year-old student of a business school in Ahmedabad was stabbed to death allegedly by an unidentified car driver after an argument over rash driving, police said on Monday. The incident took place at around 11.30 pm on Sunday, when two students of the Mudra Institute of Communications were returning to their institute's hostel on a motorcycle after buying a cake. On the way, they had a heated argument with the speeding car's driver in Bopal, Superintendent of Police (Ahmedabad rural) Om Prakash Jat said. The car driver chased the students for about 200 metres before taking out a knife from his vehicle and stabbing a student, Priyanshu Jain, he said. Priyanshu Jain was taken to a hospital, but he died later. *—PTI*

Covering accused's faces with emojis a hit on social media

BERHAMPUR, 11 NOV

A recent social media post by the Superintendent of Police, Berhampur, Odisha, has gone viral after he used emojis to cover the faces of the accused persons arrested in an assault case. The post shows four accused with emoji-faces portraying emotions like one pleading, another disappointed and a third one frowning. "Gopalpur Police team arrested four people for assaulting a father and son," the SP said in the post on X on Friday, which crossed 1.3 million views by Monday. In their comments, several users praised Berhampur Police for blending humour with the announcement of the arrest. "I have posted the images of arrested people on social media sites, covering their faces with emojis in the past," said SP Saravana Vivek M. *—PTI*

Kamal Haasan renounces 'Ulaga Nayagan' title

CHENNAI, 11 NOV

Asserting that cinema is bigger than any individual and that he remained a student, renowned actor Kamal Haasan on Monday announced his decision to renounce titles such as Ulaga Nayagan (universal hero) people bestowed on him and said he may be addressed by his name, or simply KH. Haasan, also the president of Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM), a party he founded in 2018, said, "Such accolades, given by the people and recognised by esteemed colleagues and admirers, have always been humbling, and I have been genuinely moved by your love in conferring it upon me." He added that it was his humble belief that artistes must not be elevated above the art. "I feel compelled to respectfully decline all such titles or prefixes," he said. *—PTI*

Justice Sanjiv Khanna takes oath as 51st CJI

He hears 45 cases on 1st day, thanks lawyers

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Justice Sanjiv Khanna commenced judicial proceedings on Monday, his first day as the Chief Justice of India (CJI), and thanked lawyers for wishing him well. He was sworn in as the 51st CJI earlier in the day by President Droupadi Murmu at a brief ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Justice Khanna took the oath in English "in the name of god" at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. "Thank you," the CJI told the lawyers who assembled in Courtroom 1 along with Justice Sanjay Kumar minutes after noon. Justice Khanna heard 45 cases on his first day.

Born on 14 May, 1960, Justice Khanna will serve as the CJI for a little over six months and demit office on 13 May, 2025, upon attaining the age of 65. He succeeded Justice DY Chandrachud who demitted office on Sunday.

Justice Khanna was recommended by justice Chandrachud as his successor on 17 October.

Justice Khanna has his imprint on several landmark judgements, such as upholding the sanctity of EVMs, abrogation of Article 370, scrapping the electoral bonds scheme and granting interim bail to former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Hailing from an illustrious Delhi-based family, Justice Khanna is the son of former Delhi High Court judge Justice Dev Raj Khanna and the nephew of the iconic late former apex court judge HR Khanna.

A third-generation lawyer before being elevated to the Delhi High Court, the 64-year-old is driven by the zeal to reduce pendency and speed up justice delivery. *—PTI*

Justice Sanjiv Khanna takes oath as the 51st Chief Justice of India during a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on Monday *PHOTO: PTI*

SC raps Delhi police for not fully imposing cracker ban

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Calling it a mere "eyewash", the Supreme Court on Monday came down heavily on the Delhi police for failing to comprehensively implement the firecracker ban in the national capital and only seizing raw materials.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih also directed the Delhi police commissioner to immediately inform all the stakeholders concerned about the ban order and ensure that no manufacture and sale of firecrackers take place.

"We direct Delhi police commissioner to form a special cell to ensure effective implementation of the ban on fire crackers. We direct Delhi police commissioner to file a personal affidavit putting on record the steps taken by them to enforce ban," the court said.

The top court wondered why the Delhi government delayed imposition of the ban on fire crackers till 14 October, when the order of ban was issued.

"The right to live in a pollution-free atmosphere is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution. Prima facie, we are of the view that no religion promotes any activity that promotes pollution or compromises with health of the people," remarked the bench.

The top court further asked the Delhi government to decide before November 25 on a "perpetual" firecracker ban after consulting stakeholders.

The air quality in the national capital was in the 'very poor' category on Monday morning, with a thick layer of smog covering several parts of the city. The overall Air Quality Index was 349 at 9am. *—PTI*

- SC directed Delhi police commissioner to inform stakeholders concerned about the ban order and ensure that no manufacture and sale of firecrackers take place

SC not to hear bail plea of riots accused

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain the plea of student activist Gulfisha Fatima seeking bail in a case of "larger conspiracy" behind the North East Delhi riots of February 2020, and asked the Delhi High Court to consider her plea on 25 November. A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma noted that she has been in custody for four years and seven months in the case. The bench said her petition for bail, which was pending before the high court, should be heard on 25 November unless there are some extraordinary circumstances. *—PTI*

CRIME SHEET

UP girl ends life after youth molests her

BALLIA, 11 NOV

A teenage girl allegedly hanged herself in her house in Lakhanpur village, two days after her family filed a complaint with the police against a youth for allegedly molesting her, police said on Monday.

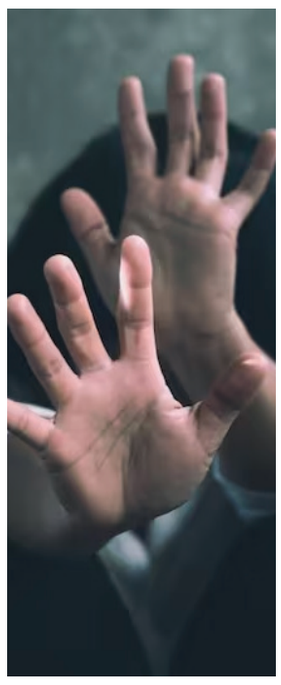
Two policemen were suspended for negligence in the case, an officer said.

Superintendent of Police Vikrant Vir said Head Constable Munib Yadav and Constable Vikas Kumar Yadav of Sikandarpur Police Station were suspended for "gross negligence of duty, indifference, inaction and indiscipline."

On Saturday, the 16-year-old girl was found hanging from a fan hook inside her house by a shawl, said Vir, who is also the local station house officer (SHO).

Two days earlier, the girl's parents lodged a complaint at the police station, accusing a youth of molesting their daughter. They told the police that she was molested on her way to attend coaching classes and was also threatened over the phone, police.

The SHO said the two policemen received the complaint but failed to inform their seniors. They began an investigation without following the set procedure, he said. *—PTI*



Madrassa chief, teacher held for sexual abuse

MEERUT, 11 NOV

A manager and a teacher of a madrassa have been arrested in Meerut on charges of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl student, police said on Monday. The incident took place within the jurisdiction of the Jani police station and the accused were arrested on Sunday, they said.

Jani police station in-charge Pankaj Kumar Singh said the accused have been identified as 42-year-old Adil, a teacher, and 47-year-old Maqsood, the manager.

"It is alleged that both of them sexually abused a minor girl, who is a student of Class 8. On the basis of a complaint by the victim's family, Jani police have registered a case under relevant provisions of the BNS as well as the POCSO Act," Singh said.

The girl's father told the police that the incident took place on October 29. When the student started crying, the accused threatened to kill her. After this, the student got very scared that she stopped going to the madrassa, the official said.

"On Saturday, the family members lodged a complaint at the Jani police station leading to the arrest of the duo on Sunday evening," he said. *—PTI*

MP COP HIT BY TRAIN WHILE REMOVING BODIES

DAMOH, 11 NOV

A sub-inspector in Madhya Pradesh lost his arm and a police vehicle driver sustained injuries when a train hit them while responding to the scene of a double fatality on the railway tracks. The incident occurred near the Karaiya Bhadoli railway station, about 260km from Bhopal on Sunday evening.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Shrut Kirti Somvanshi said Assistant Sub-Inspector Rajendra Mishra attached to Bandakpur police post arrived at the location after reports that two men had fallen from a moving train and died.

Investigations revealed that while Mishra and his team were removing the duo's bodies from the tracks, a train unexpectedly hit them. *—PTI*

NO 18% GST

HC nixes govt note on sanitizers

MUMBAI, 11 NOV

The Bombay High Court on Monday quashed the Centre's 2020 press release classifying hand sanitizers as disinfectants attracting 18 per cent GST, noting that the issue of classification lies with the judicial and quasi-judicial adjudicatory authorities.

A division bench of Justices MS Sonak and Jitendra Jain said the press release virtually expresses a firm view on the classification of alcohol-based hand sanitizers as "disinfectants" and not "medicaments".

The court, in its judgment, said the Ministry of Finance, by issuing the press release, "virtually issued a fiat to the adjudicatory judicial and quasi-judicial authority to classify all alcohol-based hand sanitizers as disinfectants attracting a GST rate of 18 per cent".

The bench held that the issue of whether a product falls within a particular class or category falls within the province of the judicial and quasi-judicial authorities created under the provisions of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act.

Such powers must be exercised by the judicial and quasi-judicial authorities independently and without any goading from any party, including the executive, it said.

"Any press release or executive instruction meant to influence or, worse still, require the judicial or quasi-judicial authorities to exercise their functions in a particular manner would interfere with their functions. This cannot be allowed," the high court said. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PEXELS

- Bombay HC said the press release by Centre virtually expresses a firm view on the classification of alcohol-based hand sanitizers as 'disinfectants' and not 'medicaments'

Kashmir's higher reaches get first snowfall of season

SRINAGAR, 11 NOV

Higher reaches of Kashmir on Monday received the season's first snowfall while plains were lashed by rains, ending a month-long dry spell in the valley, officials said.

Affarwat in Gulmarg area of Baramulla district and Sadhna Top in Kupwara district received light snowfall, they said.

Reports of snowfall were received from uninhabited mountainous areas in Kashmir as well. Srinagar and other plain areas of the valley were lashed by rain late in the afternoon, they added.

The snowfall and rain lowered the day temperature significantly, signalling the arrival of winter in Kashmir. *—PTI*

Odisha govt sacks women's panel chief

BHUBANESWAR, 11 NOV

The Odisha government's Women and Child Development Department on Saturday removed Minati Behera from the post of Odisha State Commission for Women (OSCW) chairperson. The notification was issued on Saturday, but the matter came to light on Monday.

Behera, a former president of Biju Janata Dal's women's wing, was appointed as chairperson of the OSCW in September 2022 by the previous BJD government.

According to the notification, the department had earlier issued a show-cause notice to Behera for her "unsatisfactory" performance during her tenure.

"After thorough and careful examination of the show-cause reply submitted by the OSCW chairperson, it is observed that the reply is inadequate and does not justify the unsatisfactory performance of the Commission," the department said. *—PTI*

Minati Behera *PHOTO: OMMCOMNEWS*

Curfew eased in U'khand town after mosque row

PITHORAGARH, 11 NOV

Authorities have lifted prohibitory orders imposed in Berinag town of Uttarakhand after a right wing group staged a protest over a house allegedly being used as a mosque, an official on Monday said. Additional forces deployed in the area have also been recalled.

The Rastriya Sewa Sangh, led by its president Himanshu Joshi, on 9 November staged a dharna at Ganesh Chowk demanding action against the use of a house as a mosque. On Sunday, the administration served a notice to the house owner who lives in Haldwani.

"Peace prevails in Berinag now. Prohibitory orders imposed under section 163 of Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita in the town and additional deployments were withdrawn on Sunday. The owner of the house in question has also been issued a notice to which he has to reply within 15 days," Berinag SDM Shreshtha Gunsola said.

"The house belonged to one Abdul Majid who is now dead and his son Abdul Najim now resides in Haldwani. We have given notice to Abdul Najim asking him if he has given permission to use his house as a mosque," the official said.

The right wing group said the notice to the house owner was a result of the protest carried out by the outfit. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

UNTIMELY PARADE

Houston ISKCON's Rath Yatra draws ire

BHUBANESWAR, 11 NOV

Despite assuring the Odisha government and Puri's Gajapati Maharaja that it would not hold an untimely Rath Yatra outside India, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) organised a 'chariot parade' at Houston in the United States.

The parade, featuring a replica of the Nandighosa chariot without the deities of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, Goddess Subhadra and Sudarsan Chakra, was organised on 9 November as part of ISKCON's Festival of Bliss.

The incident has drawn criticism from Puri Govardhan Peeth spokesperson Matru Prasad Mishra, who demanded a ban on the ISKCON in India.

"Though Houston ISKON had given written assurance to Puri Gajapati Maharaja and Odisha government that they would not hold untimely Ratha Yatra, they did it, which is a conspiracy against our religion," Mishra said.

Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan on Sunday said the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration in Puri would make a decision on the matter and the state government would back whatever action it decides to take.

Meanwhile, in a statement uploaded, Houston ISKON chief Saranga Thakur Dasa said the temple had initially planned the parade with deities on the chariot. "However, there was a concern raised by some of our friends in the local community, so we decided to make a change," it said.

"We understand there is a meeting planned in India next month between ISKCON and Puri officials to discuss these points in detail, and to seek mutual agreement whereby – as much as possible – the traditional calendar as well as the Lord's desire for people all over the world to have His darshan… can be honoured," the statement said. *—PTI*

The parade, featuring a replica of Nandighosa chariot without the deities, was organised on 9 November as part of Festival of Bliss *PHOTO: X*

STEEL BIRD ON FIRE

A Boeing 787 with 249 passengers and 16 crew members was forced to return to Rome shortly after takeoff on Sunday due to an engine fire. The fire, which started in the plane's right engine, was caused by a bird strike. Videos showed flames coming from the engine mid-flight. This incident adds to a series of challenges for Boeing. The company lost $6 billion after a 7-week workers' strike over wages disrupted production at its factories in the Pacific Northwest. Additionally, in July, Boeing was fined $243.6 million by the US over the fatal 737 MAX crashes in 2018 and 2019 ***PHOTO: SCREENGRAB***

COP29 to focus on poor nations' carbon pollution

A complex international two-week-long game of climate change poker is convening. The stakes? Just the fate of an ever-warming world.

Curbing and coping with climate change's worsening heat, floods, droughts and storms will cost trillions of dollars and poor nations just don't have it, numerous reports and experts calculate. As United Nations climate negotiations started Monday in Baku, Azerbaijan, the chief issue is who must ante up to help poor nations and especially how much.

The numbers are enormous. The floor in negotiations is the $100 billion a year that poor nations — based on a categorization made in the 1990s — now get as part of a 2009 agreement that was barely met. Several experts and poorer nations say the need is $1 trillion a year or more.

"It's a game with high stakes," said Climate Analytics CEO Bill Hare, a physicist. "Right now the fate of the planet depends very much on what we're able to pull off in the next five or 10 years."

But this year's talks, known as COP29, won't be as high-profile as last year's, with 48 fewer heads of state scheduled to speak. The leaders of the top two carbon polluting countries — China and the United States — will be absent. But if money negotiations fail in Baku, it will handicap 2025's make-or-break climate negotiations, experts say.

Not only is dealing with money always a touchy subject, but two of the rich countries that are expected to donate money to poor nations — the United States and Germany — are in the midst of dramatic government changes. Even though the United States delegation will be from Biden Administration, the re-election of Donald Trump, who downplays climate change and dislikes foreign aid, makes US pledges unlikely to be fulfilled.

The overarching issue is climate finance. Without it, experts say the world can't get a handle on fighting warming, nor can most of the nation's achieve their current carbon pollution-cutting goals or the new ones they will submit next year.

The top two carbon polluting nations are China and the US ***PHOTO: PTI***

"If we don't solve the finance problem, then definitely we will not solve the climate problem," said former Colombian deputy climate minister Pablo Vieira, who heads the support unit at NDC Partnership, which helps nations with emissions-cutting goals.

Nations can't cut carbon pollution if they can't afford to eliminate coal, oil and gas, Vieira and several other experts said. Poor nations are frustrated that they are being told to do more to fight climate change when they cannot afford it, he said. And the 47 poorest nations only created 4 per centof the heat-trapping gases in the air, according to the UN.

About 77 per centof the heat-trapping gas in the atmosphere now comes from the G20 rich nations, many of whom are now cutting back on their pollution, something that is not happening in most poor nations or China.

"The countries that are rich today have become rich by polluting the Earth," said Ani Dasgupta, president of World Resources Institute.

The money being discussed is for three things: Helping poor nations switch from dirty fossil fuels to clean energy; helping them adapt to the impacts of a warming world such as sea level rise and worsening storms; and compensating vulnerable poor nations for climate change damage.

"Should the global community fail to reach a (finance) goal, this is really just signing the death warrant of many developing countries," said Chukwumerije Okereke, director of the Center for Climate Change and Development in Nigeria.

Michael Wilkins, a business professor who heads Imperial College's Centre for Climate Finance and Investment in the UK, said since 2022 total climate finance has been nearly USD 1.5 trillion. But only 3 per centof that is actually geared toward the least developed countries, he said.

"The Global South has been repeatedly let down by unmet pledges and commitments," said Sunita Narain, director general of New Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment.

"Finance is really the key component that compels all types of climate action," said Bahamian climate scientist Adelle Thomas, adaptation director at the Natural Resources Defence Council. "Without that finance, there's simply not much that developing countries in particular can do."

It's an issue of both self-interest and justice, Thomas and others said. It's not charity to help poor nations decarbonize because rich nations benefit when all countries cut emissions. After all, a warming world hurts everyone.

Compensating for climate damage and helping nations prepare for future harm is a matter of justice, Thomas said. Even though they didn't create the problem, poor nations — especially small island nations — are particularly vulnerable to climate change's rising seas and extreme weather. Thomas mentioned how 2019's Hurricane Dorian smacked her grandparents home and "the only thing left standing was one toilet."

The trillion-dollar figure on the table is about half of what the world spends annually on the military. Others say global fossil fuel subsidies could be redirected to climate finance; estimates of those subsidies range from the International Energy Agency's USD 616 billion a year to the International Monetary Fund's USD 7 trillion a year.

"When we need more for other things, including conflict, we seem to find it," United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director Inger Andersen said. "Well, this is probably the largest conflict of all."

A UN climate finance committee report looked at the need from 98 countries and estimated it as ranging from USD 455 billion to USD 584 billion per year.

The money isn't just direct government aid from one nation to another. Some of it comes from multinational development finance banks, like the World Bank. There's also private investment that will be considered a large chunk.

Developing nations are seeking relief from their USD 29 trillion global debt. *—PTI*

SALAR ساڈا

'Men who objectify women are more likely to be violent'

Intimate partner violence is a global scourge. One in four Australian women have experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner. The perpetrators are overwhelmingly heterosexual men.

Many factors contribute to this form of violence. Persistent gender inequality is a fundamental systemic cause, but researchers have identified additional risk factors. These include alcohol and drug use, past experience of family violence, financial stress and sexist attitudes.

One psychological factor that may be implicated in intimate partner violence is objectification. Feminist thinkers such as Cambridge scholar Rae Langton and American philosopher Martha Nussbaum have proposed men who treat their partners as "object-like" are disposed to harm them because they fail to see them as fully human.

Objectification can involve men judging their partner's value in her physical appearance, seeing her as a possession, or denying her agency and autonomy. The common thread is a subtle or not-so-subtle form of dehumanisation.

Recent psychological research has tried to test these ideas, with intriguing results.

Some men are unwilling or unable to appreciate their partners as complete humans ***PHOTO: PTI***

Our new research

Past research found young men who sexually objectify women are especially likely to perpetrate sexual violence. It also showed that men who unconsciously associate women with objects have a relatively high propensity for sexual harassment.

In our recently published work, we moved from considering violence towards women in general to violence towards men's intimate partners. You might expect men would be less likely to objectify those they claim to love. The appalling statistics on intimate partner violence suggest otherwise.

Our new article presents findings from three studies on the role of objectification in intimate partner violence. Each study sampled American men aged 18 to 35 who were in a committed romantic relationship of at least one year's duration.

In our first study, men completed a computer-based task – the Implicit Association Test – commonly used to measure unconscious bias. We adapted the task to assess how much they automatically associated women with inanimate objects or animals.

The group also responded to questionnaires measuring how often they engaged in a range of abusive and sexually coercive behaviours towards their current partners. Although based on self-reporting, and therefore open to distortion, these measures are valid predictors of violent behaviour.

As expected, men with relatively strong tendencies to associate women with objects reported higher rates of violent and coercive behaviour. This effect did not occur because these men held more hostile sexist attitudes toward women.

Objectification and sexism were distinct predictors of intimate partner violence, suggesting that objectification independently contributes to this form of violence.

Voodoo dolls

Our second study extended the first in two ways. First, we adapted the association test to examine how much men automatically associated their partner with objects, rather than women in general.

Second, we added a more behavioural test of violence. The Voodoo Doll Task allows participants to use "pins" to stab a doll, presented on a computer screen, that shares their partner's name.

Each participant has an opportunity to use as many pins as he wishes after vividly imagining a provocative scenario. He is at a bar with his partner when she starts flirting with another man and expressing discontent with her current relationship.

Stabbing a virtual doll with digital pins is not the same as inflicting actual violence, of course. However, people who use more pins are more prone to real-world violence. Their inhibitions against acting violently are likely weaker.

In our study, men who tended to associate their partners with inanimate objects reported higher rates of violence, as in the first study. They also stabbed the voodoo doll with more pins if they were highly upset by the provocative scenario.

The objectifying mindset

Our first two studies examined objectification as the tendency to associate a person with objects. Our third considered it as the tendency to focus on the person's physical appearance.

In our experiment, men were randomly assigned to write several sentences about their partner's appearance or about her personality. They then completed the Voodoo Doll Task and several short questionnaires.

As we predicted, young men induced to focus on their partner's appearance stabbed the doll with more pins. They also rated their partner as having fewer personality traits associated with being emotional and capable of action (which contrasts the inertness of inanimate objects).

What this means in the real world

Our three studies indicate objectification plays a role in men's intimate partner violence against women. Men who implicitly see their female partners as object-like are at greater risk of acting violently towards them.

Inducing an appearance mindset may also promote intimate partner violence, suggesting objectification may be implicated in violence even among men who are otherwise not prone to it.

These findings offer a new perspective on intimate partner violence and how to prevent it. Fundamentally, they imply this violence is partially rooted in a failure of empathy. Some men are unwilling or unable to appreciate their partners as complete humans. Cultural changes that boost or encourage men's appreciation of women's experiences, and reduce their focus on their physical appearance, may help reduce the terrible toll of violence in heterosexual intimate relationships. *—PTI*

LETTERS

write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Traumatised Lebanese children face physical, emotional wounds

Curled up in his father's lap, clinging to his chest, Hussein Mikdad cried his heart out. The 4-year-old kicked his doctor with his intact foot and pushed him away with the arm that was not in a cast. "My Dad! My Dad!" Hussein said. "Make him leave me alone!" With eyes tearing up in relief and pain, the father reassured his son and pulled him closer.

Hussein and his father, Hassan, are the only survivors of their family after an Israeli airstrike last month in Beirut. The strike killed 18 people, including his mother, three siblings and six relatives.

"Can he now shower?" the father asked the doctor.

Ten days after surgery, doctors examining Hussein's wounds said the boy is healing properly. He has rods in his fractured right thigh and stitches that assembled his torn tendons back in place on the right arm. The pain has subsided, and Hussein should be able to walk again in two months — albeit with a lingering limp. A prognosis for Hussein's invisible wounds is much harder to give. He is back in diapers and has begun wetting his bed. He hardly speaks and has not said a word about his mother, two sisters and brother.

"The trauma is not just on the muscular skeletal aspect. But he is also mentally hurt," Imad Nahle, one of Hussein's orthopaedic surgeons, said.

Israel said, without elaborating, that the strike on the Mikdad neighbourhood struck a Hezbollah target. In the war that has escalated since September, Israeli airstrikes have increasingly hit residential areas around Lebanon

With more strikes on homes and in residential areas, doctors are seeing more children affected by the violence. More than 100 children have been killed in Lebanon in the past six weeks and hundreds injured. And of the 14,000 wounded since last year, around 10 per centare children. Many have been left with severed limbs, burned bodies, and broken families — scars that could last for a lifetime. Ghassan Abu Sittah, a renowned British-Palestinian surgeon who is also treating Hussein, sees that long road ahead. This is his worry: "It leaves us with a generation of physically wounded children, children who are psychologically and emotionally wounded."

'What do they want from us?'

At the American University of Beirut Medical Center, which is receiving limited cases of war casualties, Nahle said he operated on five children in the past five weeks — up from no cases before.

Over 100 children have been killed in Lebanon in the past six weeks and hundreds injured ***PHOTO: AL JAZEERA***

A few miles away, at the Lebanese Hospital Geitaoui, one of the country's largest burns centres increased its capacity by nearly 180 per cent since September so it could accommodate more war wounded, its medical director Naji Abirached said. About a fifth of the newly admitted patients are children.

In one of the burn centre's ICU units lies Ivana Skakye. She turned 2 in the hospital ward last week. Ivana has been healing from burns she sustained following an Israeli airstrike outside their home in southern Lebanon on 23 September. Israel launched hundreds of airstrikes that day in different parts of Lebanon, making it the deadliest day of the war so far. More than 500 people were killed.

Six weeks later, the tiny Ivana remains wrapped in white gauze from head to toe except her torso. She sustained third-degree burns over 40 per cent of her body. Her hair and head, her left side all the way to her legs, both her arms and her chest were burned. Her family home was damaged, its ceiling set afire. The family's valuables, packed in their car as they prepared to leave, were also torched. Ivana's older sister, Rahaf, 7, has recovered faster from burns to her face and hands.

Fatima Zayoun, their mother, was in the kitchen when the explosion hit. Zayoun jumped up to grab the girls, who were playing on the terrace. It was, Zayoun said, "as if something lifted me up so that I can grab my kids. I have no idea how I managed to pull them in and throw them out of the window. She spoke from the ICU burns unit. "They were not on fire, but they were burned. Black ash covered them...(Ivana) was without any hair. I told myself, 'That is not her'." Now, Ivana's wound dressings are changed every two days.

Her doctor, Ziad Sleiman, said she could be discharged in a few days. She's back again to saying "Mama" and "Bye" — shorthand for wanting to go out. Like Hussein, though, Ivana has no home to return to. Her parents fear collective shelters could cause an infection to return.

After seeing her kids "sizzling on the floor," Zayoun, 35, said that even if their home is repaired, she wouldn't want to return. "I saw death with my own eyes," she said.

Zayoun was 17 last time Israel and Hezbollah were at war, in 2006. Displaced with her family then, she said she almost enjoyed the experience, riding out of their village in a truck full of their belongings, mixing with new people, learning new things. They returned home when the war was over.

"But this war is hard. They are hitting everywhere," she said. "What do they want from us? Do they want to hurt our children? We are not what they are looking for."

Abu Sittah, the reconstructive surgeon, said most of the children's injuries are from blasts or collapsing rubble. That attack on a space they expect to be inviolable can have lingering effects.

"Children feel safe at home," he said. "The injury makes them for the first time lose that sense of security — that their parents are keeping them safe, that their homes are invincible, and suddenly their homes become not so." *—PTI*

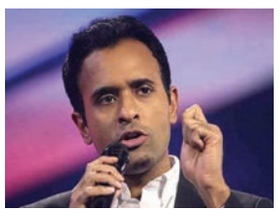


PHOTO: PTI

Legal immigration system broken: Vivek Ramaswamy

WASHINGTON, 11 NOV

Vivek Ramaswamy, top Indian-American aide to President-elect Donald Trump, expressed his support for the mass deportation plan of illegal immigrants and said that the legal immigration system in the country is "broken". He said that those who broke the law while entering the United States have no right to stay here and they need to go. "Do we have a broken legal immigration system? Yes, we do. But I think the first step is going to be to restore the rule of law, to do it in a very pragmatic way," entrepreneur turned-politician told ABC News in an interview. From being a rival of Trump during the Republican primaries, Ramaswamy has emerged as a staunch supporter and confidant of Trump. *—PTI*

1 dead, 16 injured in Alabama varsity shooting; 1 held

ATLANTA, 11 NOV

A shooting early Sunday that marred homecoming weekend at Tuskegee University in Alabama left one person dead and left 16 others injured, a dozen of them by gunfire, authorities said. One arrest was announced hours later. The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency said Jaquez Myrick, 25, of Montgomery, was taken into custody while leaving the scene of the campus shooting and had been found with a handgun with a machine gun conversion device. The agency's statement said Myrick faces a federal charge of possession of a machine gun. It did not say whether he was a student at the historically Black university, where the shooting erupted in the early hours on Sunday as the school's 100th Homecoming Week was winding down. *—PTI*

Mali detains 3 from Aus gold mining firm over dispute

YAOUNDE, 11 NOV

The military junta in Mali has arrested the top executive and two other employees of Australia's gold mining company Resolute Mining while they were visiting the country for talks over an unspecified dispute, the company said Monday. The three – including the chief executive Terence Holohan – were detained last Friday in Mali's capital of Bamako. Andrew Wray, the company's non-executive chairman, said in a statement published on Resolute Mining's website that the three officials were "unexpectedly detained" after a discussions about "claims made against" the company, without elaborating. Four employees of Canadian company Barrick Gold were also detained. *—PTI*

Taiwan tycoon to sue China over sanctions

TAIPEI, 11 NOV

Taiwanese tycoon Robert Tsao, the retired founder of United Microelectronics Corporation (UMC), has declared his intention to sue senior Chinese officials for sanctions imposed against him due to his outspoken support for Taiwan's independence Voice of America (VOA) reported. Tsao, one of Taiwan's wealthiest individuals, has been sanctioned by China's Taiwan Affairs Office, which accused him of being linked to the "Black Bear Academy" -- an organisation allegedly promoting separatism and endangering cross-strait relations. However, Tsao strongly rejected these allegations, stating that the sanctions were part of China's broader attempt to suppress the lawful political views of those supporting Taiwan's independence. *—ANI*

Kremlin denies Trump-Putin phone call

Trump claims to dial Putin, suggests ending Ukraine war; Kremlin calls it 'pure fiction'

WASHINGTON, 11 NOV

- One former US official who was familiar with the Putin call said that Trump likely does not want to enter office with a fresh crisis in Ukraine prompted by Russian escalation

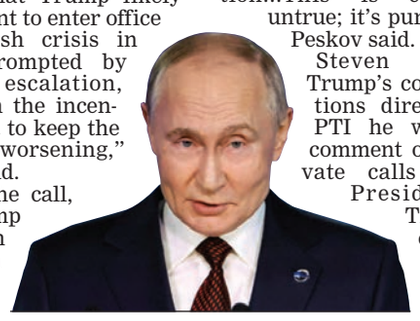
US President-elect Donald Trump spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin over the phone and discussed ending the war in Ukraine amongst many other important topics, according to a media report.

However, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov denied the media report of the phone call between Putin and Trump.

After winning the recent presidential elections, Trump has spoken to over 70 world leaders.

"The two men discussed the goal of peace on the European continent and Trump expressed an interest in follow-up conversations to discuss 'the resolution of Ukraine's war soon," one of the people said," The Washington Post said in an exclusive report published on Sunday.

One former US official who was familiar with the Putin call said that Trump likely does not want to enter office with a fresh crisis in Ukraine prompted by Russian escalation, "giving him the incentive to want to keep the war from worsening," the daily said.



"During the call, which Trump took from his resort in Florida, he advised the Russian president not to escalate the war in Ukraine and reminded him of Washington's sizable military presence in Europe, said a person familiar with the call, who, like others interviewed for this story, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter," The Washington Post reported.

However, Kremlin spokesman Peskov in Moscow said the Western media reports of the phone call between Putin and Trump are "untrue", state-run TASS news agency reported.

"There was no conversation...This is completely untrue; it's pure fiction," Peskov said.

Steven Cheung, Trump's communications director, told PTI he would not comment on the private calls between President-elect Trump and other world leaders. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X@REALTOMHOMAN

Tom Homan to serve as '*border czar*'

NEW YORK, 11 NOV

President-elect Donald Trump says that Tom Homan, his former acting US Immigration and Customs Enforcement director, will serve as "*border czar*" in his incoming administration.

"I am pleased to announce that the Former ICE Director, and stalwart on Border Control, Tom Homan, will be joining the Trump Administration, in charge of our Nation's Borders," he wrote late Sunday.

Homan was widely expected to be offered a position related to the border and Trump's pledge to launch the largest deportation operation.

Trump is pressuring the candidates to change the rules and empower him to appoint some nominees without a Senate vote. *—PTI*

Biden should resign, make Kamala 1st female Prez: Simmons

A former staffer of Vice President Kamala Harris urged President Joe Biden to resign and install his deputy as the first woman president of the country, although for a short duration. "Joe Biden has been amazing but he should fulfil one last promise - to be transitional," Jamal Simmons, former communications director for the vice president said. *—PTI*

INDIAN AMERICAN FUNDRAISER GETS RACIST MESSAGES

WASHINGTON, 11 NOV

An Indian American fundraiser of Vice President Kamala Harris and the Democratic Party has been receiving racist and threatening messages on his phone asking him to leave the county and go to India.

"You claim that you are doing what's best for Americans, but you aren't doing anything for Americans and you don't care about America. You are Indian. You only care about Indians. You do what's best for India. Why are you here? Stop being a beggar in America and become a leader in India," Ajay Jain Bhaturia was told in a text message that he received on Sunday from an unknown number.

Ajay Bhutoria is the Deputy National Finance Chair DNC and National Finance Committee, Harris-Walz campaign. "Trump supporters asking me to go back to India to fight for green card backlog," Bhutoria told PTI.

"Stop being a beggar in America and to be a leader in India," he was told in message. Some of these messages were posted by Bhutoria. *—PTI*

COP29 begins, demands finance solution

Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President PHOTO: PTI

BAKU, 11 NOV

Azerbaijan, the host of this year's UN climate conference, on Monday called on all countries to urgently resolve outstanding issues to agree on a new climate finance goal to help developing nations combat and adapt to climate change.

Delivering his remarks at the opening ceremony of the UN summit, COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev said current policies are leading the world toward 3 degrees Celsius of warming.

Among Global South negotiators, the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) group has suggested that USD 1 trillion per year is needed, the Arab Group has called for USD 1.1 trillion, the African Group USD 1.3 trillion, India USD 1 trillion, and Pakistan USD 2 trillion.

In Baku, Azerbaijan, where the world's first oil well was drilled and the smell of the fuel was noticeable outdoors, the two-week session, called COP29, got right to the major focus of striking a new deal on how many hundreds of billions — or even trillions — of dollars a year will flow from rich nations to poor to try to curb and adapt to climate change.

Setting ambitious objectives for the COP29 climate summit here, UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell on Monday emphasised the need for an updated global climate finance target and robust action on carbon markets. India's key priorities at the conference are likely to focus on ensuring accountability for developed nations on climate finance. *—PTI*

5 soldiers were killed by militants in Khyber, and their car was destroyed, on Monday PHOTO: X @AJZMASROOR

5 Iranian troops dead in Pak border militant attack

TEHRAN, IRAN, 11 NOV

A militant attack near the Pakistani border with Iran left five Iranian forces dead, the state-run IRNA news agency reported Sunday.

The report said the dead were ethnic Baluch members of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard's volunteer Basij force and were killed in Saravan city in Sistan and Baluchistan province. Saravan is some 1,400 kilometres southeast of the capital Tehran.

Earlier in the day, state TV reported that Revolutionary Guard forces killed three terrorists and arrested nine others in a military operation. The report did not specify which group the suspects belonged to.

Last month, unknown gunmen killed four people, including the chief of the Revolutionary Guard in the province. *—PTI*

Haiti replaces PM marking more turmoil

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 11 NOV

A transitionary council created to reestablish democratic order in Haiti signed a degree Sunday firing the country's interim Prime Minister Garry Conille and replacing him with Alix Didier Fils-Aimé, a businessman who was previously considered for the job. The decree, set to publish on Monday, was provided to the Associated Press by a government source. It marks even more turmoil in an already rocky democratic transition process for Haiti, which hasn't held democratic elections in years in large part due to the soaring levels of gang violence plaguing the Caribbean nation. The transitional council was established in April, tasked with choosing Haiti's next prime minister and Cabinet with the help that it would help quell turmoil Haiti. *—PTI*

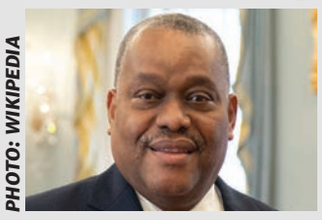


PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Garry Conille

RUSSIAN STRIKES KILL 6, INJURE 30 IN UKRAINE

KYIV, 11 NOV

Russian glide bombs, drones and a ballistic missile smashed into cities in southern and eastern Ukraine on Monday, officials said, killing at least six civilians and injuring about 30 others.

Russia recently intensified strikes that have long tormented civilian areas, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, in an apparent effort to unnerve Ukrainians and wear down their willingness to keep up a war that is approaching its 1,000-day milestone.

Both Russia and Ukraine are waiting to see how Washington will change its policy on the war after Donald Trump takes office in January.

The US is the biggest provider of military help to Ukraine but Trump has chided the Biden administration for giving Kyiv tens of billions of dollars of aid.

An overnight attack on Zaporizhzhia, also in the south, with three powerful glide bombs killed one person and injured 21, including a 4-year-old boy, Ukraine's National Police said. *—PTI*

17 Chadian soldiers, 96 rebels killed in Boko Haram attack

N'DJAMENA, 11 NOV

Boko Haram insurgents killed 17 Chadian soldiers in a weekend attack on a military post that also left 96 of the assailants dead in the country's west, Chad's army said.

The attack in the Lake Chad region happened on Saturday, army spokesperson Gen Issakh Acheikh said on national television Sunday night. He did not provide details.

The Lake Chad region has been plagued this year by frequent attacks from insurgents, including Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West Africa. It has revived fears of violence after a period of peace following a successful operation launched in 2020 by the Chadian army to destroy the extremist groups' bases.

PHOTO: X@INDEPENDENTNGR

Last month, 40 soldiers were killed during an attack on a military base, prompting President Mahamat Deby Itno to launch an operation to dislodge Boko Haram militants from Lake Chad. *—PTI*

Japan's parl re-elects Ishiba as PM

TOKYO, 11 NOV

Japan's parliament reelected Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on Monday after his governing coalition suffered the worst election loss in more than a decade.

Ishiba's ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its junior partner Komeito together lost their majority in the 465-seat Lower House, the more powerful of Japan's two-house parliament, in 27 October election due to continued voter outrage over financial misconduct by his party and its lukewarm response.

A special parliamentary session convened Monday to pick a new leader in a vote required within 30 days of a general election. In the past, these votes did not attract as much attention because an LDP leader was virtually assured to be prime minister. Ishiba beat top opposition leader Yoshihiko Noda 221-160 in the first runoff in 30 years.

Most of his previous Cabinet members will be reappointed, but Ishiba will have to replace three who lost their seats or were affected by the election results.

Since the election loss, Ishiba has refused to step down, saying is willing to cooperate with additional coalition partners to boost stability and help him pursue his party's policies. *—PTI*

Shigeru Ishiba PHOTO: X@ ALJAZEERA

FOR NEW AIRCRAFT

'*China pursues nuclear propulsion*'

BANGKOK, 11 NOV

China has built a land-based prototype nuclear reactor for a large surface warship, in the clearest sign yet Beijing is advancing toward producing its first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, according to a new analysis of satellite imagery and Chinese government documents.

China's navy is already the world's largest numerically, and it has been rapidly modernising. Adding nuclear-powered carriers to its fleet would be a major step in realising its ambitions for a true "blue-water" force capable of operating in seas far from China in a growing global challenge to the United States.

Researchers at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in California said they made the finding while investigating a mountain site outside the city of Leshan in the southwest Chinese province of Sichuan, where they suspected China was building a reactor to produce plutonium or tritium for weapons.

Nuclear Power Institute of China's Site No. 1 PHOTO: AP

Instead they concluded that China was building a prototype reactor for a large warship. The project at Leshan is dubbed the Longwei, or Dragon Might, Project and is also referred to as the Nuclear Power Development Project in documents provided to The Associated Press.

Neither China's Defence Ministry nor Foreign Affairs Ministry responded to requests for comment.

There have long been rumours that China is planning to build a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, but the research by the Middlebury team is the first to confirm that China is working on a nuclear-powered propulsion system for a carrier-sized surface warship.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has tasked defence officials with building a "first-class" navy and becoming a maritime power. *—PTI*

MTV EUROPE MUSIC AWARD

Taylor Swift's Big Wins
Took home Best Artist, Best US Act, Best Live Act, and Best Video for 'Fortnight' (featuring Post Malone)

- Benson Boone: Won Best New Act
- Tyla's Success: Won Best Afrobeats, Best R&B, and Best African Act
- Rita Ora's Hosting & Liam Payne Tribute: Emotional tribute to Liam Payne, who passed away last month, calling him "one of the kindest people I knew"
- Busta Rhymes Receives Global Icon Award
- Shawn Mendes won Best Canadian Act
- Sabrina Carpenter won Best Song for 'Espresso'
- Ariana Grande was named Best Pop Act
- Eminem won Best Hip-Hop Act
- Pet Shop Boys: Received the inaugural Pop Pioneers Award

Niva Bupa IPO gets 1.8 times subscription

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

The initial public offer of Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Ltd, formerly Max Bupa Health Insurance Company, got subscribed 1.80 times on the closing day of share sale on Monday. The Initial Public Offering (IPO) received bids for 31,13,62,800 shares against 17,28,57,143 shares on offer, as per NSE data. The portion for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) attracted 2.73 times subscription while the category for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) got subscribed 2.06 times. Non-Institutional Investors part fetched 68 per cent subscription. Niva Bupa said it has mobilised Rs 990 crore from anchor investors. The issue has a price band of Rs 70-74 per share. The Rs 2,200-crore IPO is a combination of fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 800 crore. —*PTI*

PHOTO: X

Zomato CEO offers job to Bengalurean for his feedback

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

Bhanu, a Bengaluru-based product manager, received a job offer from Zomato CEO Deepinder Goyal after sharing suggestions for Zomato's new "Food Rescue" feature. Announced on 10 November, this feature aims to reduce food wastage by offering cancelled orders to nearby customers at a discount. Goyal shared the update on X, where Bhanu proposed improvements such as limiting cash-on-delivery (COD) options and enforcing a two-cancellation limit per month. An impressed Goyal invited him to collaborate. Bhanu, who regularly shares service-improvement tips for Blinkit, expressed his appreciation. —*Salar News*

Edtech firm Bhanzu raises $16.5M in funding

MUMBAI, 11 NOV

Math learning platform Bhanzu on Monday said it has raised USD 16.5 million in a funding round from Epiq Capital and Z3Partners, among others. Existing investors Lightspeed Ventures and Eight Roads also participated in the round, the company said in a statement. The company is present in India, the US, the UK and the Middle East, and seeks to eliminate math anxiety and build confidence among students through interactive group sessions to help them succeed in science, technology, engineering and maths fields. The funding announcement comes at a time when the going has been tough for the edtech sector, with a slew of companies finding it challenging to raise funds or deliver on business targets. —*PTI*

Vedanta to invest $500M in AvanStrate

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Metals and mining giant Vedanta Ltd is planning to invest close to USD 500 million in its display glass unit AvanStrate Inc, the company said on Monday. The Vendanta Group has expressed interest in setting up a display semiconductor manufacturing unit in India. "Vedanta Limited is planning to invest close to USD 500M in its group company, AvanStrate Inc. (ASI), a leading global display glass manufacturer that is now fully managed by Vedanta Limited," a company statement. The company plans to make this strategic investment to drive innovation and expansion within ASI, strengthening its focus on research and development, as well as manufacturing capabilities and product offerings to cater to the growing global demand for advanced display glass solutions, the statement said. —*PTI*

AI's fleet rises to 208 from 128 after Vistara merger

Air India will now fly to 49 domestic, 42 global destinations

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Post merger with Vistara, Air India will now have a fleet of 208 planes up from the previous 128 operating on 103 domestic and 71 international routes. It will be flying to 49 domestic and 42 international destinations, according to an official.

For Vistara's loyal customer base, the merger brings changes in branding but promises to maintain the 'Vistara experience' as it shifts to Air India. Last month, Vistara Chairman Bhaskar Bhat said the integrated entity will share the best practices of the two airlines and the livery of Vistara will stay for some time.

Amid concerns in certain quarters on whether Vistara passengers will continue to get the same services as now since Air India, which is in the transformation phase, has been facing various service issues, it has been repeatedly emphasised that "Vistara in-flight experience is not going away" post-merger.

For Vistara's loyal customers, the merger brings changes in branding but promises to maintain 'Vistara experience' is a concern PHOTO: X

Maharaja loss-making Air India, under the government ownership, was also known for its iconic 'Maharaja' emblem. Tata Group took back the ownership of the full-service airline in January 2022.

Post the merger, the vintage 'Maharaja' will be retained through the frequent flyer programme of the integrated entity.

Pilots oppose merger

While most of the elements related to the merger have been addressed in the last nearly two years, there are still some issues that remain. A section of Air India pilots is unhappy that there are different retirement age limits. At Air India, which was owned by the government since the 1950s and came into the Tata fold in 2022, the retirement age for pilots and other staff is 58 years, whereas at Vistara, which started flying in 2015, it is 60 years.

Also, there are some concerns related to the seniority of pilots at Air India post-merger. —*Agencies*

- Amid concerns in certain quarters on whether Vistara passengers will continue to get the same services as now since Air India, which is in the transformation phase, has been facing service issues, it has been emphasised that "Vistara in-flight experience is not going away" post-merger

Zomato, Swiggy claim law compliance

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Facing a CCI probe for anti-competitive practices, online food delivery platform Zomato has asserted that it complies with the country's laws while rival Swiggy said it is committed to complying with local regulations.

Both companies termed news reports on the Competition Commission of India's (CCI) investigation "misleading", maintaining that the CCI is yet to pass its final order on the matter of unfair business practices, including alleged preferential treatment to some restaurant partners by Zomato and Swiggy.

In a regulatory filing, Zomato said the CCI had issued a "prima facie" order on April 4, 2022, which directed the Office of the Director General of the Commission to investigate potential violations under the Competition Act, 2002.

Since the intimation of April 5, 2022, the commission, on merits, has not passed any order, the company said.

"Accordingly, the aforementioned news article is misleading. We will continue to work closely with the Commission to explain why all our practices are in compliance with the Competition Act and that they do not have any adverse effect on competition in India," Zomato stated in the filing.

In a statement, Swiggy said media reports of the CCI's investigation into Swiggy confuse the investigative process with the final outcome and are misleading. —*PTI*

PHOTO: X

INDIGO WANTS TO EXTEND WET LEASE OF BOEING PLANES

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

IndiGo is working with Civil Aviation Ministry to explore the possibility of extending the wet lease of wide-body Boeing 777 planes from Turkish Airlines as the existing lease period is ending this week.

Now, IndiGo is operating two wet-leased Boeing 777 planes for flights from Delhi and Mumbai to Istanbul. These are also the only two wide-body aircraft that are in the fleet of the airline, which is India's largest carrier with a domestic market. These aircraft were wet-leased to cater to the rising demand for international travel from India. —*PTI*

VOLATILE MARKET

Sensex, Nifty slide amid heavy outflow of foreign funds

MUMBAI, 11 NOV

Benchmark sensitive indices Sensex and Nifty fell in early trade on Monday as continuous foreign fund outflows, disappointing quarterly earnings and weak trends from Asian markets dented investors' sentiment.

Forex traders said the volatility in the equity market is likely to continue as the short-term trend continues to be choppy, and this consolidation is likely to continue in the near-term with a weak bias.

The BSE benchmark Sensex fell by 484.98 points to 79,001.34 in early trade. The NSE Nifty declined 143.6 points to 24,004.60.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Asian Paints tumbled over 8 per cent after the company on Saturday reported a 43.71 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 693.66 crore for the September quarter, impacted by soft-demand conditions, material price inflation and a decline in decorative and coatings business in the domestic market.

Shares of Asian Paints tumbled over 9 per cent after the firm reported a 43.71 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 693.66 crore for the September quarter. The stock emerged as the biggest laggard among the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty firms.

Axis Bank, Adani Ports, Nestle, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel and IndusInd Bank were also among the laggards. However, Tata Motors, Power Grid, Maruti and HCL Technologies were among the gainers. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,404.04 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said, Indian markets remain under pressure, largely due to relentless foreign investor selling. —*PTI*

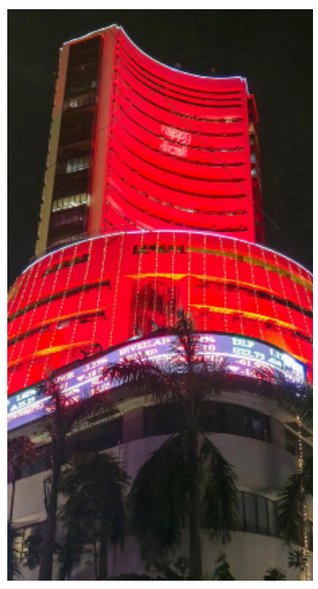


PHOTO: PTI

Rupee falls to all-time low of 84.38

MUMBAI, 11 NOV

The rupee slipped 1 paisa to an all-time low of 84.38 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday, weighed down by persistent foreign fund outflows and a muted trend in domestic equities. Forex traders said the rupee was likely to remain under pressure unless there was a softening in the dollar index or a slowdown in foreign fund outflows. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at an all-time low of 84.38 against the greenback, registering a fall of 1 paisa over its previous close. —*PTI*

'Trump factor not to hit FDI inflow to India'

PHOTO: X

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

India could see a shift in foreign direct investment (FDI) trends in the second term of Donald Trump as the president of the United States, said a research report by the State Bank of India.

The report highlighted that under his first term Trump 1.0, the Trump administration made sweeping regulatory changes aimed at attracting investments back to the US, which impacted FDI inflows globally including India.

It added that if similar policies are reintroduced in Trump 2.0 also, it could create challenges for emerging markets like India, which rely on FDI as a significant driver of economic growth.

"India may see shifts in foreign direct investments during Trump 2.0. Trump 1.0 administration saw significant regulatory changes aimed at attracting investments back to the US," the report stated.

However, the report also noted that India has been gradually diversifying its sources of FDI, and this trend could serve as a buffer against any potential decline. "India is no longer dependent on the traditional sources of FDI inflows... unlike the recent past, FDI is now coming in many new sectors," it said.

India is now attracting investment in a wide array of industries, including renewable energy & medical devices, the report said. —*ANI*

'Most youths prefer stocks to mutual funds'

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

A significant percentage of young adults are increasingly preferring to directly invest in equity markets rather than opting for the mutual fund route, a report has said.

According to the report by Fin One, an initiative of fintech brokerage firm Angel One, 93 per cent of young adults is consistent savers, with the majority saving 20–30 per cent of their monthly income.

Additionally, stocks have emerged as the preferred investment choice, with 45 per cent of respondents favouring them over more traditional options such as fixed deposits or gold, Fin One, an initiative of Angel One Ltd, said in its report.

PHOTO: PTI

As much as 58 per cent of young Indian investors currently invest in stocks, while 39 per cent favour mutual funds. Safer options like fixed deposits (22 per cent) and recurring deposits (26 per cent) see relatively lower adoption, the brokerage firm said in its report.

This indicates a balanced approach between high returns and stable savings among the youth, it said.

The report draws data from 1,600 young Indians in more than 13 Indian cities, benchmarking four key areas of saving behaviour, investment preferences, financial literacy and the use of technology and financial tools.

It underlined the role of digital platforms and technology with 68 per cent of respondents regularly using automated savings tools, underscoring the growing impact of fintech on the financial habits of India's younger generation.

Despite disciplined saving habits, 85 per cent of young Indians cite the high cost of living as the biggest barrier to saving, it said. —*Agencies*

EQUITY MFs SEE RECORD ₹41,887 CR INFLOW

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Equity mutual funds witnessed a record inflow of Rs 41,887 crore in October, marking a surge of over 21 per cent on a month-on-month basis, fuelled by robust investments in thematic funds. This also marks the 44th consecutive month of net inflow in the equity-oriented funds, highlighting the ever-increasing appeal of mutual funds among investors, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India showed on Monday. "October's numbers are indeed phenomenal... While earlier this year, equity inflows were buoyed by strong market performance, October marked a stark reversal," Santosh Joseph, Co-founder and CEO of Germinate Investor Services, said. —*PTI*

BROADBAND LICENCE

Starlink clears major hurdle in India

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Starlink's application for a satellite broadband licence in India is advancing after the Elon Musk-led company agreed to comply with government data localisation and security requirements.

Starlink's commitment to meet these guidelines is a significant step toward obtaining a Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite Services (GMPCS) licence from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), a prerequisite for satellite broadband services. The agreement comes as US President-elect Donald Trump considers a prominent role for Musk in his administration, potentially boosting Starlink's influence in its India operations.

Elon Musk-led company agreed to comply with government data localisation and security requirements PHOTO: X

The GMPCS licence will enable Starlink to conduct satellite internet services on a trial spectrum for a nominal application fee. However, to obtain the licence, Starlink must ensure all data is stored within India and that security agencies can intercept data if necessary. Although the company has not yet formalised its agreement to these terms, its "in principle" commitment marks a crucial step forward. Starlink's application with the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), which oversees satellite services, is also progressing, with the regulator requesting additional details. IN-SPACe Chairman Pawan Kumar Goenka recently confirmed that both Starlink and Amazon Kuiper, another satellite operator, are responding to regulatory queries.

Meanwhile, discussions are intensifying as the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) finalises its recommendations on satellite spectrum pricing and allocation, expected by December. —*ANI*

Demat account additions drop to 4-month low

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Amid the ongoing selling in the Indian stock markets, the growth in the demat accounts also declined in October, highlighted a report by ICICI Securities

The report highlighted that after a strong four-month period where monthly additions to demat accounts exceeded 4 million, October 2024 saw a decline in new demat accounts.

It also added that the total number of accounts added in October fell to 3.45 million, down from 4.36 million in September 2024. This dip breaks the streak of steady growth in demat accounts, suggesting a possible shift in investor sentiment or market conditions.

"Demat accounts additions fall below 4mn after four months after four consecutive months of more than four million demat accounts additions in a month" the report said.

Among depositories, the Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL) maintained a strong lead in market share. In October 2024, CDSL's share of total and incremental demat accounts stood at 79 per cent and 90 per cent, respectively. —*ANI*

PHOTO: ANI

Bumrah to lead, Rahul to open in Perth

Gambhir asks Ricky Ponting to focus on Aus cricket and not Indian cricket

MUMBAI, 11 NOV

Head coach Gautam Gambhir on Monday said Jasprit Bumrah, as designated vice-captain, will lead India in the opening Test against Australia in Perth if regular skipper Rohit Sharma is unavailable for the game due to personal reasons.

The straight-talking former opener also indicated that KL Rahul could be asked to open the innings in place of Rohit.

The second batch of the Indian players is leaving for Perth, but Rohit has stayed back. Uncertainty remains if Rohit will compete in the series-opener.

"At the moment, there is no confirmation. We will let you know exactly what the situation will be. Hopefully, he is going to be available, but everything you want to know, you will get to know before the start of the series," Gambhir said.

Gambhir also fired a shot back at Ricky Ponting for questioning Virat Kohli's form and place in Indian team, saying the Australian legend should only be concerned about cricket in his country.

Ponting had recently said Kohli's form is a concern, given the Indian batter has scored only two Test centuries in last five years but also felt that the Indian legend has it in him to roar back to form and there is no better place than Australia to do so.

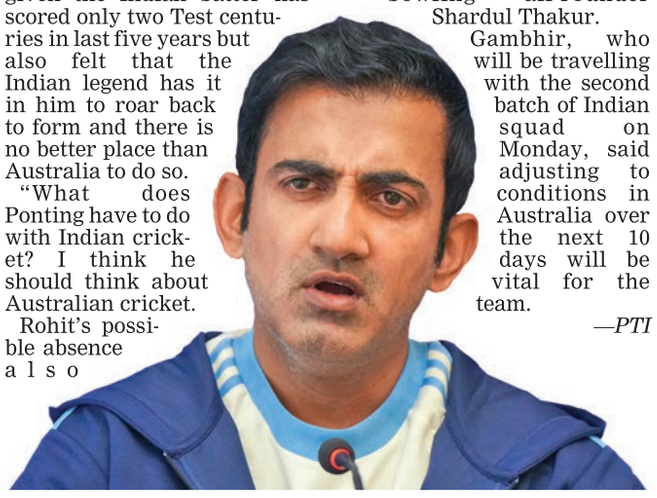
"What does Ponting have to do with Indian cricket? I think he should think about Australian cricket.

Rohit's possible absence also leaves a spot vacant at the top of the batting order and Gambhir said one among the uncapped Abhimanyu Easwaran and KL Rahul, who both played in the unofficial Tests against Australia A for India A, will be picked.

The coach backed uncapped all-rounder Nitish Reddy, who has a batting average of 21 in first-class cricket, and was picked ahead of veteran pace bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur.

Gambhir, who will be travelling with the second batch of Indian squad on Monday, said adjusting to conditions in Australia over the next 10 days will be vital for the team. —*PTI*

- The second batch of the Indian players is leaving for Perth, but Rohit has stayed back. Uncertainty remains if Rohit will compete in the series-opener



Head coach Gautam Gambhir **PHOTO: PTI**

'Gambhir's clarity key to my comeback'

GQEBERHA, 11 NOV

Mystery spinner Varun Chakaravarthy has described the three-year gap from international cricket as "tough," but credited the intense domestic grind and the role clarity provided by new head coach Gautam Gambhir for helping him to regain his lost form.

The 33-year-old spinner recorded his career-best figures of 5 for 17 in Sunday's second T20I against South Africa, though his efforts could not prevent India from losing by three wickets.

"Definitely, the last three years were a little tough," Chakaravarthy said.

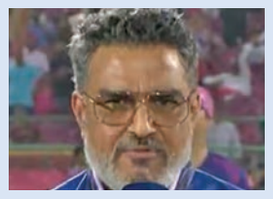
"The only thing I could do was play lots of cricket. And I started playing a lot of the domestic league (TNPL) in India. And that definitely helped me understand my game better. And that's what helped me."

Chakaravarthy was part of the Kolkata Knight Riders' IPL-winning team this year under Gambhir, who recently took over as the coach of the Indian team.

Reflecting on his return to the national side, Chakaravarthy said that Gambhir's guidance had been pivotal.

"Yes, we played the Bangladesh tour and he was coaching the team. And definitely we spoke a lot and he gave me a lot of role clarity.

India will face South Africa in the third and final T20Is on Wednesday and Friday at Centurion and Johannesburg, respectively. —*PTI*



Keep Gambhir away from media: Sanjay

Launching an unexpected scathing attack on Gautam Gambhir, former India cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar on Monday said the India head coach lacks the "right demeanour and words" while interacting with the press and urged the BCCI to keep him away from the media duties. . He does not have the right demeanour nor the words when interacting with them. Rohit & Agarkar, much better guys to front up for the media.

Sharma finishes 32nd as Warring grabs title in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, 11 NOV

Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma produced his best card of the week, a superb seven-under 65, in the final round to sign off at tied 32nd position at the HSBC Abu Dhabi Championships. After 71-73 on the first two days, Sharma had a great weekend as his final two rounds of 66 and 65 had an eagle each. On the final day, Sharma, who retained his DP World card, had seven birdies, an eagle and two bogeys. Paul Waring held off a stellar chasing pack to win the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship and claim his first Rolex Series title. —*PTI*

Manipur, Haryana enter National Hockey C'ship QFs

CHENNAI, 11 NOV

Manipur and Haryana qualified for the quarterfinals of the Hockey India Senior Men National Championship after convincing victories in their respective matches on the final day of the pool stage here on Monday. Manipur thrashed Assam 10-0 in Pool H with Laishram Dipu Singh scoring a hat-trick, while Haryana beat Mizoram 8-0 in Pool B, thanks to four goals from Rohit. Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey also made it to the last-eight stage from Pool A with 3-1 win over Chhattisgarh. Manipur will take on Punjab in the first quarterfinal, followed by the Haryana vs Maharashtra match. The third quarterfinal will be between Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh while the fourth will feature Odisha and Karnataka. —*PTI*

World Tennis League season 3 team unveiled

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

As the clock ticks closer to four days of high-octane tennis action in a few weeks, the World Tennis League on Monday announced the teams and match schedules for its third season. Slated to be held from 19 to 22 December at the Etihad Arena, this much-awaited league will feature four teams - Eagles (the defending champions), Hawks, Falcons and Kites - each boasting of some of the finest tennis players globally. This year, all teams have been refreshed for a revised composition, elevating the excitement and making the match outcome more unpredictable than ever. The 2024 edition will kickstart with an exciting opener as the Falcons, featuring top guns like Medvedev and Rybakina. —*ANI*

PHOTO: X

CR7 faces backlash for promoting Herbalife shake

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo recently sparked a controversy by promoting Herbalife's Formula 1 meal replacement shake as a "good way to start the day" on X. In his post, he praised the shake for its balanced mix of protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals but omitted an "advertisement" tag, which stirred criticism for lacking transparency. A community note later highlighted that Herbalife, a multilevel marketing firm, pays Ronaldo for the endorsement. Indian hepatologist Dr Cyriac Abby Phillips, also known as "The Liver Doc", criticised Ronaldo, alleging Herbalife's products are linked to liver damage and branding the company a "pyramid scheme". Fans expressed discontent, with some called Herbalife a "scam". —*PTI*

Arsenal draw Chelsea 1-1, Man U beat Leicester 3-0

MANCHESTER, 11 NOV

Arsenal's Premier League title challenge took another hit after a 1-1 draw with Chelsea.

It's now four games without a win in the league for Mikel Arteta's team, which is nine points behind leader Liverpool.

While a point saw Arsenal climb up to fourth in the standings, its winless run has seen a gap open up at the top. Chelsea is third, ahead of Arsenal on goal difference.

Gabriel Martinelli had fired Arsenal in front in the 60th minute at Stamford Bridge, but Pedro Neto equalized 10 minutes later.

Just four points separate Chelsea and 13th-place Manchester United after 11 rounds of the season.

Declan Rice went into the match with a broken toe and was taken off in the 71st, while Bukayo Saka was substituted 10 minutes later, placing doubts over whether they will be available for England's

United's incoming head coach will take over a team on the up after a 3-0 win against Leicester made it four games unbeaten in all competitions under interim boss Ruud van Nistelrooy.

Nottingham Forest's rise has been one of the stories of the season, but it missed the chance to close the gap on Manchester City in second after falling 3-1 to Newcastle. —*PTI*

Aravindh clinches Chennai Grand Masters title

CHENNAI, 11 NOV

A late surge by GM Aravindh Chithambaram in the last two classical rounds helped him secure the Chennai Grand Masters title while GM V Pranav remained unbeaten throughout to claim the Challengers crown here on Monday.

With the Masters category witnessing a three-way tie for the top spot, Aravindh defeated GM Levon Aronian in the first blitz play-off and then held his nerves to draw the second with black pieces to clinch the second edition of the competition.

Aravindh catapulted himself into title contention by registering his second successive win in the competition while overnight joint leaders GM Arjun Erigaisi and Levon Aronian played out a draw. —*PTI*

AMID YAMAL'S ABSENCE

Barcelona lose to Sociedad

MADRID, 11 NOV

Missing injured Lamine Yamal, Barcelona saw its seven-game winning run come to an end with a 1-0 loss at Real Sociedad in the Spanish league.

Yamal, one of the team's key players this season under new coach Hansi Flick, was ruled out before the game because of a right ankle injury.

He was replaced by Fermín López and the team's attack — by far the best in the league with 40 goals scored in 13 matches — struggled in the Basque Country, unable to get a single attempt on target against Sociedad.

Sheraldo Becker scored a 33rd-minute winner to move Sociedad, which had lost two of its last three games in all competitions, to eighth place.

Barcelona had won seven in a row in all competitions since a 4-2 loss at Osasuna in the league in September. Its only other loss this season had been at Monaco in the Champions League. All of its other 14 matches were victories.

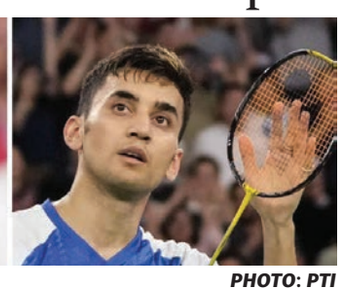
Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski, the league's leading scorer with 14 goals, had a first-half goal disallowed for offside.

Barcelona said Yamal sustained a "severe right ankle contusion" in last Wednesday's game against Red Star in the Champions League.

Flick said the club tested Yamal on Sunday to see if he could play "but it was not possible."

Julián Álvarez scored a second-half winner as Atletico Madrid moved back into third place with a 1-0 victory at Mallorca. —*PTI*

Sindhu, Lakshya set for Kumamoto Masters Japan



PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen **PHOTO: PTI**

KUMAMOTO, 11 NOV

Star shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will be eager to regain their respective form as they lead the Indian challenge at the Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

Both players have struggled to find their best form following disappointing performances at the Paris Olympics. While Sindhu reached the quarterfinals at the Denmark Open Super 750, Lakshya Sen suffered early exits at both the Arctic Open Super 500 and Denmark Open.

"I'm in good shape, physically and mentally fit," said Sindhu.

In the men's singles, Lakshya Sen possesses the game to challenge the world's best, but his mental resilience has been questioned following his near-miss at the Tokyo Olympics, where he slipped from a medal position in a heartbreaking loss.

The 23-year-old will open against Malaysia's Leong Jun Hao, with a potential showdown against eighth seed Anthony Ginting of Indonesia in the next round.

The only other Indian pair in action will be the women's doubles team of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand. —*PTI*

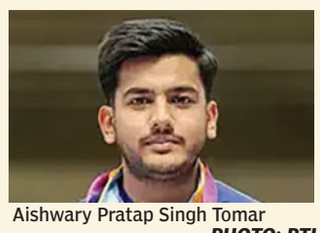
World Uni Shooting C'ship: Aishwary, Samra fail

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Leading Indian rifle shooters Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Sift Kaur Samra failed to make an impact even as little-known Smit Rameshbhai Moradiya clinched the men's 10m air rifle silver after an extremely close fight for gold in the World University Shooting Championship on Monday.

On a day when Rameshbhai was the only Indian to win a medal, his more illustrious counterpart, Olympian Tomar finished fifth in the event, while Samra, a member of the Paris Games contingent, ended at fourth in the women's 50m rifle three-positions event.

Rameshbhai, who hails from Gujarat, missed the gold medal to Czech Republic's Jiri Privratsky by just 0.1 point, scoring 252.1 in the final. The 23-year-old Privratsky had recently clinched a silver (50m rifle 3-positions) and bronze (10m air rifle) in the year-ending ISSF World Cup Final held at the Karni Singh Range.



Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar **PHOTO: PTI**

Tomar shot 187.7 for a fifth-place finish, while another Indian, Umamahesh Maddineni (208.8), finished fourth.

India have so far won nine medals, including a gold struck by the 10m air pistol mixed team of Palak Gulia and Amit Sharma. —*PTI*

INDIA BEAT MALAYSIA 4-0 IN WOMEN'S ACT HOCKEY OPENER

RAJGIR, 11 NOV

Young striker Sangita Kumari scored a brace as defending champions India defeated Malaysia 4-0 to open their campaign at the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament on a confident note here on Monday.

Sangita (8th, 55th minutes) struck twice, while Preeti Dubey (43rd) and Udita (44th) were the other goal getters for the hosts.

India will next play South Korea on Tuesday.

In other matches of the day, Japan and Korea played out a 2-2 draw, while reigning Olympic silver medallist China thrashed Thailand 15-0.

The Indians completely dominated the proceedings in the first quarter even though Malaysia had the first shy at the goal in the form of a penalty corner in the fifth minute which they wasted.

Thereafter, it was India all the way as they mounted attack after attack to put pressure on the Malaysian defence.

India secured two penalty corners in two minutes and Sangita scored with a variation from the second effort in the eighth minute. —*PTI*

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with Indian captain Salima Tete and Malaysian captain Juliani Din **PHOTO: PTI**

PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS

Langer wins 18th consecutive year

PHOENIX, 11 NOV

Bernhard Langer won for the 18th straight year on the PGA Tour Champions, holing a 30-foot birdie putt on the final hole to hold off Steven Alker in the season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship at Phoenix Country Club.

The 67-year-old Langer closed with a 5-under 66 — shooting his age or better for the third straight day and 23rd time on the tour — for a one-stroke victory over defending champion Alker — who won the season points title and a $1 million bonus — and Richard Green.

- Austin Eckroat won the World Wide Technology Championship for his second PGA Tour title of the year

"It's unbelievable, I can't describe it," Langer said. "To win this big tournament after what I've been through and to make it 18 years in a row out here."

Langer pushed his tour victory record to 47, just over eight months after tearing his left Achilles playing pickelball. The German star won the season-ending event for the first time and extended his record as the tour's oldest winner.

Meanwhile, Austin Eckroat won the World Wide Technology Championship for his second PGA Tour title of the year, shooting a 9-under 63 for a one-stroke victory over Justin Lower and Carson Young.

Playing in the group ahead of Lower and Young, Eckroat birdied the par-4 17th to open a three-stroke lead over Young, then finished with a bogey on the par-5 18th Cardonal at Diamante. —*PTI*

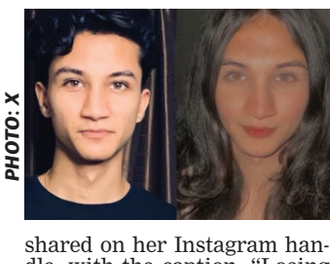
Bernhard Langer **PHOTO: X**

Bangar's daughter seeks inclusive policies in sports

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

Anaya Bangar, the 23-year-old daughter of former Indian cricketer and coach Sanjay Bangar, has come out as a transwoman following hormone replacement therapy and gender-affirming surgery. Formerly known as **Aryan**, Anaya has followed her father's passion for cricket but now faces challenges in her career as a transwoman in sports.

Recently, Anaya shared her journey on Instagram, posting a reel detailing her physical and emotional transformation over the last 11 months. A reel shared on her Instagram handle, with the caption, "Losing strength but gaining happiness. Body changing, dysphoria easing... still a long way to go, but each step feels more like me," expressed the joy of embracing her true self despite the physical and mental challenges. —*Salar News*



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